

MARVEL



RATED 7+
MARVEL.COM

150

DIRECT
EDITION

VENOM[®]

AN
OVERSIZED
150TH
ISSUE

SPECTACULAR!

**COSTA
MOORE
SOBREIRO
& MORE!**

"It had whispered to him things about himself which he did not know...and the whisper had proved irresistibly fascinating. It echoed loudly within him because he was hollow at the core."

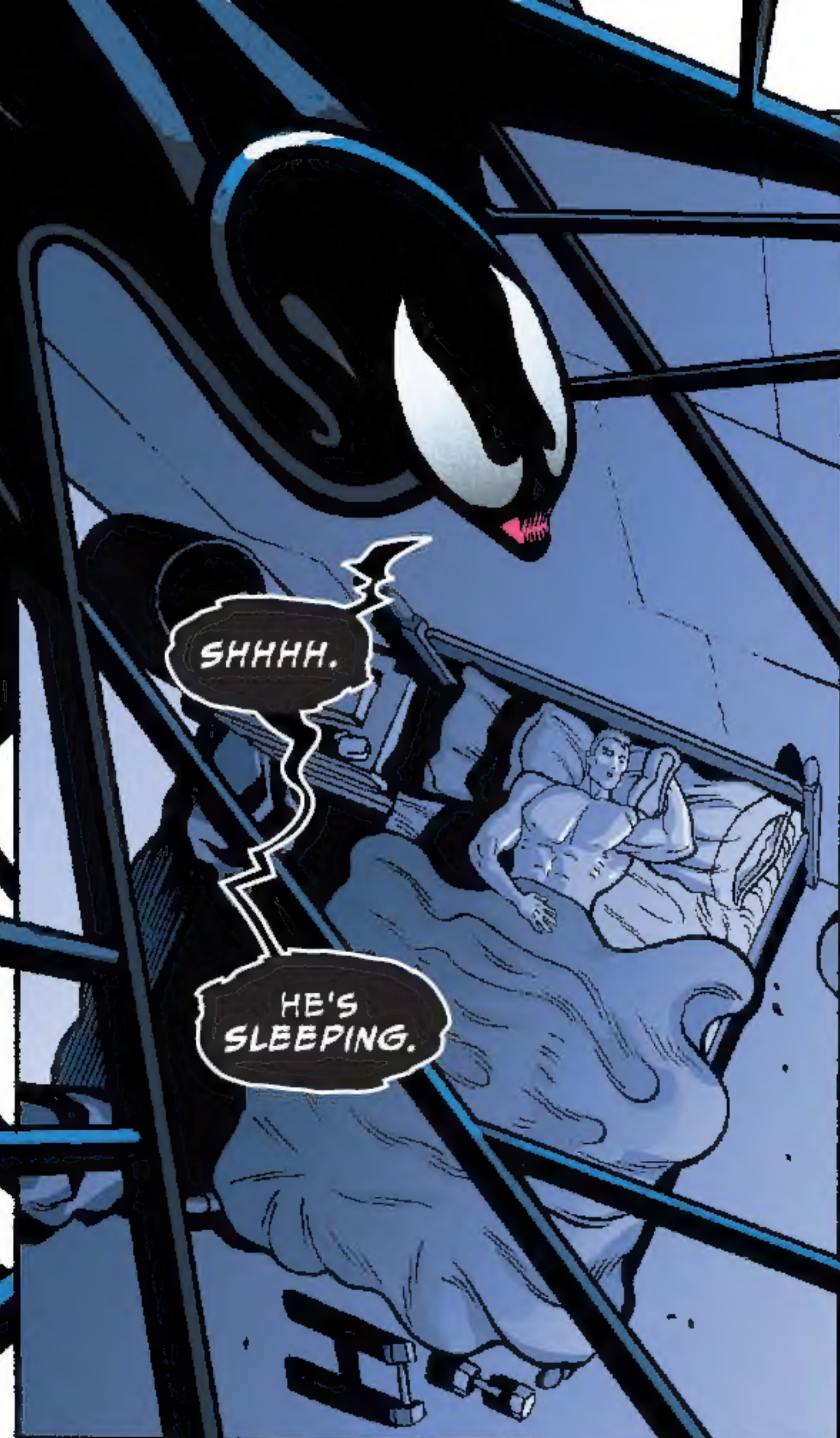


"It was written that I should be loyal to the nightmare of my choice."

*-Joseph Conrad,
Heart of Darkness.*

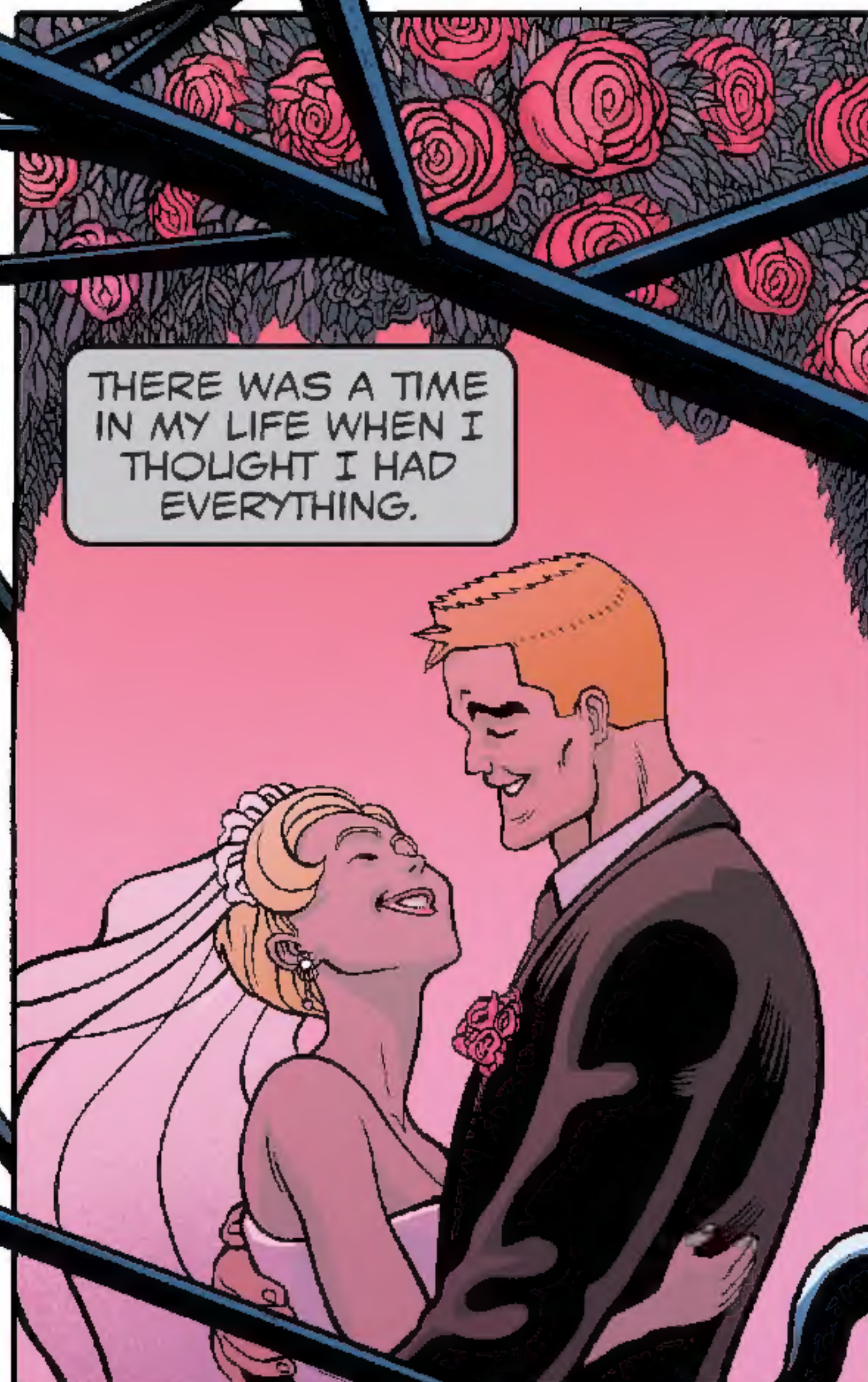


THIS IS A
LOVE STORY.

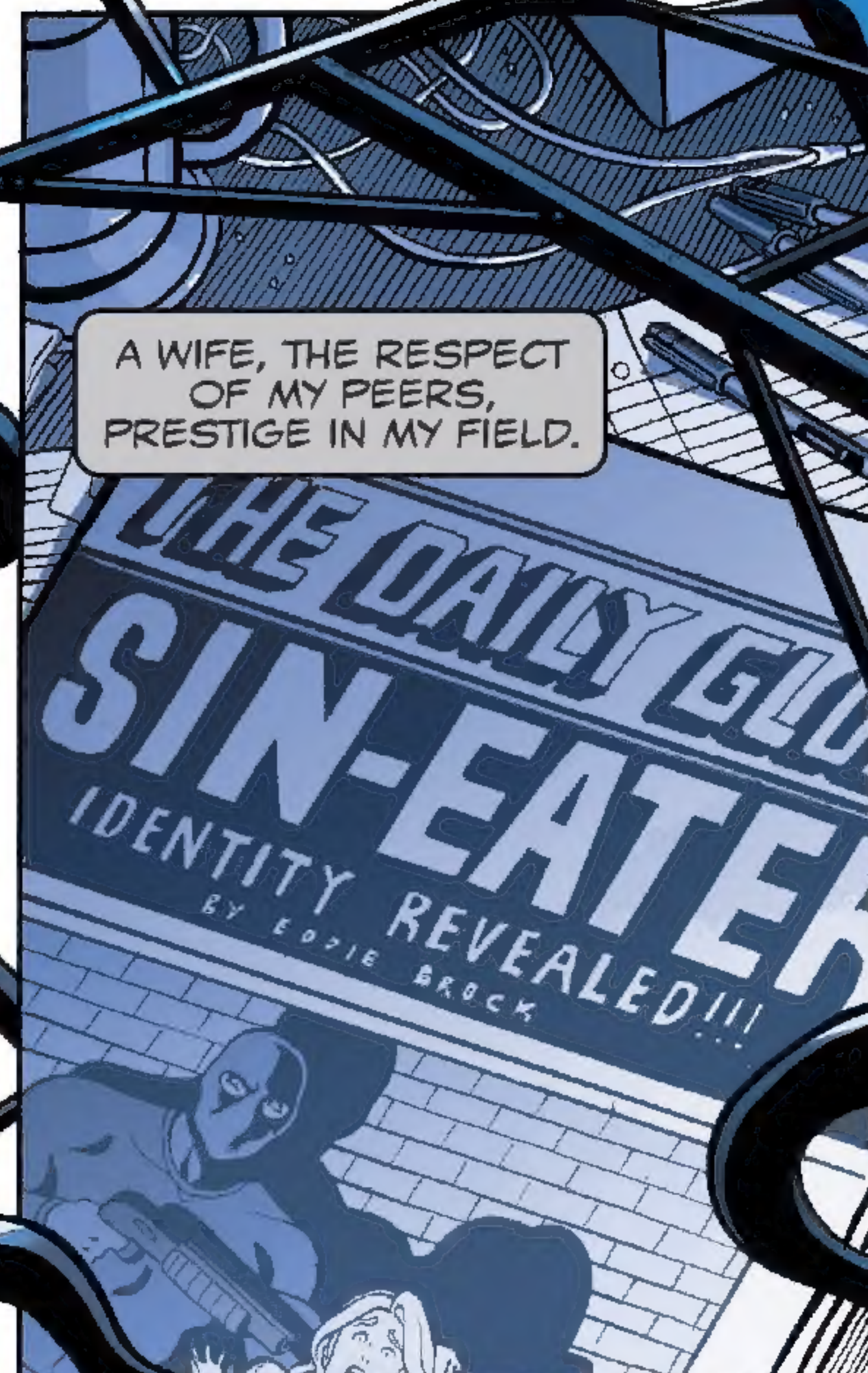


SHHHH.

HE'S SLEEPING.



THERE WAS A TIME IN MY LIFE WHEN I THOUGHT I HAD EVERYTHING.



A WIFE, THE RESPECT OF MY PEERS, PRESTIGE IN MY FIELD.



BUT RESPECT, PRESTIGE, FAME? THOSE THINGS ARE ILLUSORY.



AND THOSE PEOPLE WHO ONLY WANT YOU FOR THOSE THINGS DON'T REALLY WANT YOU AT ALL.



I WAS SO WEAK BACK THEN. SO READY TO **BREAK**. I WAS **HOLLOW**.

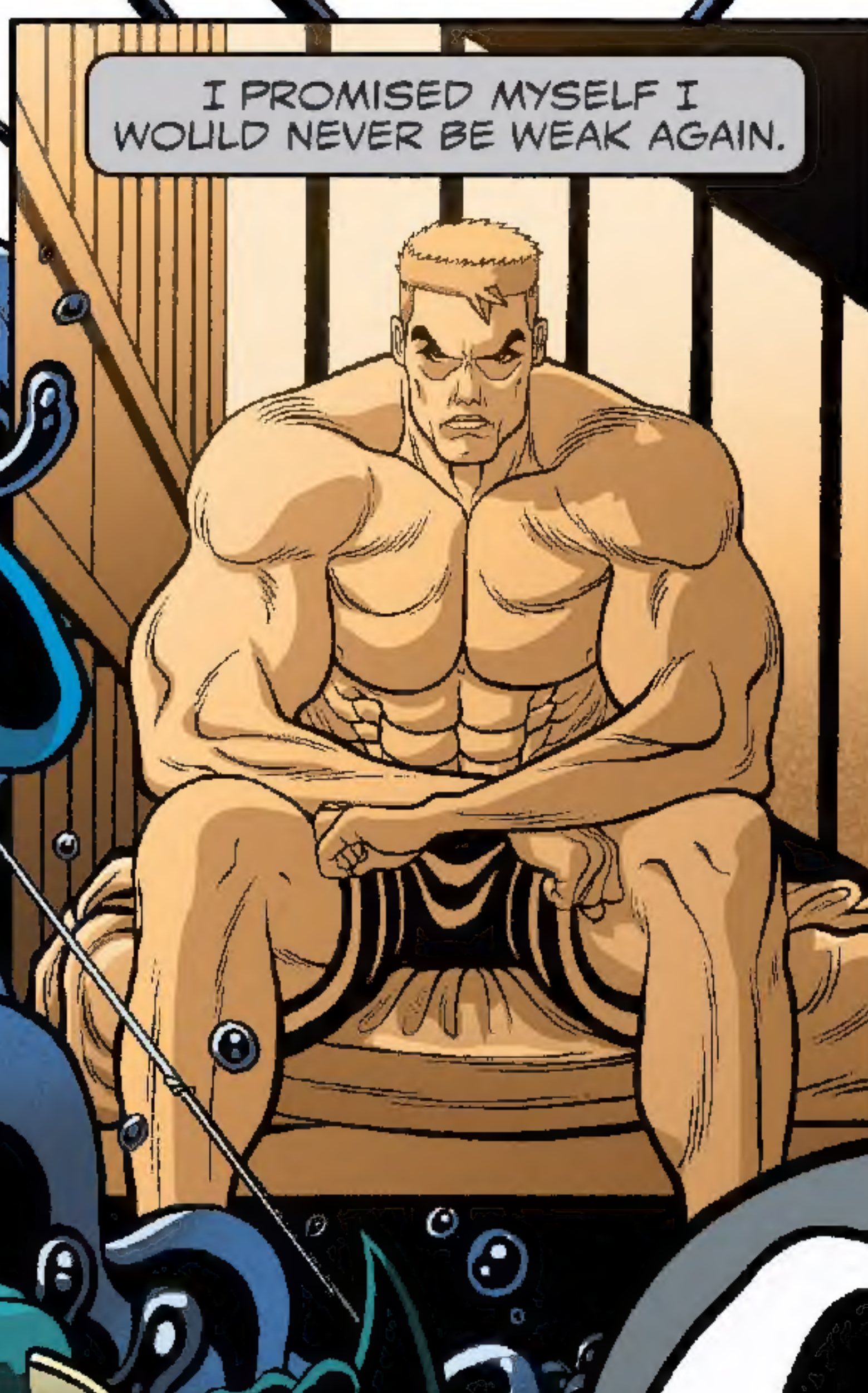
BUT THAT WAS WHEN WE **FOUND** EACH OTHER.



WHEN I BECAME **WHOLE**.



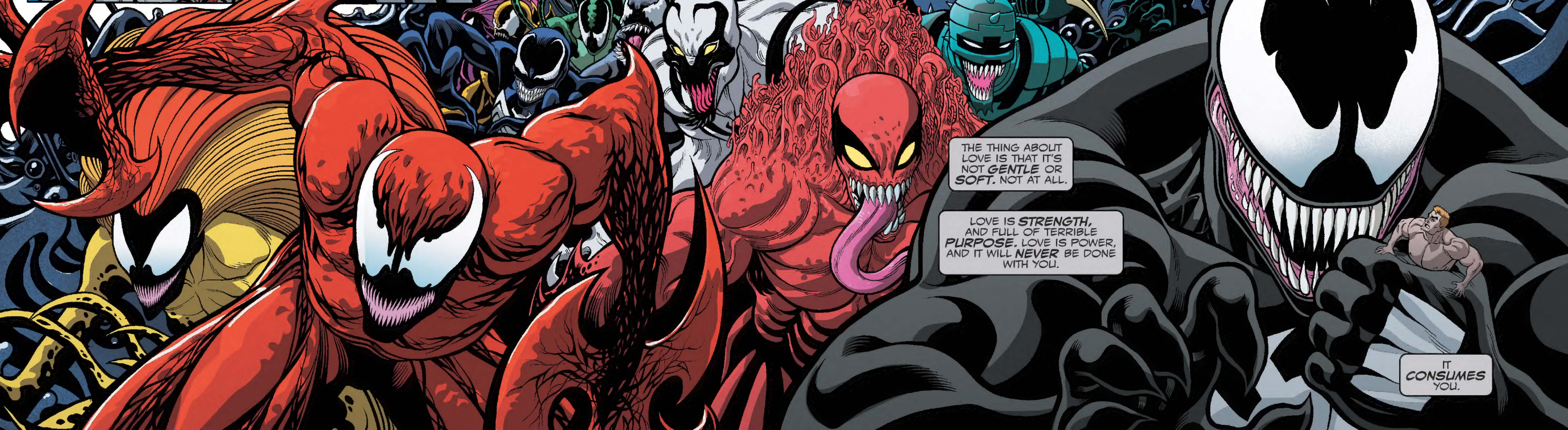
THERE ARE ALWAYS PEOPLE WHO WILL SEEK TO **DESTROY** YOUR HAPPINESS. PEOPLE YOU MUST **FIGHT**.



I PROMISED MYSELF I WOULD NEVER BE WEAK AGAIN.



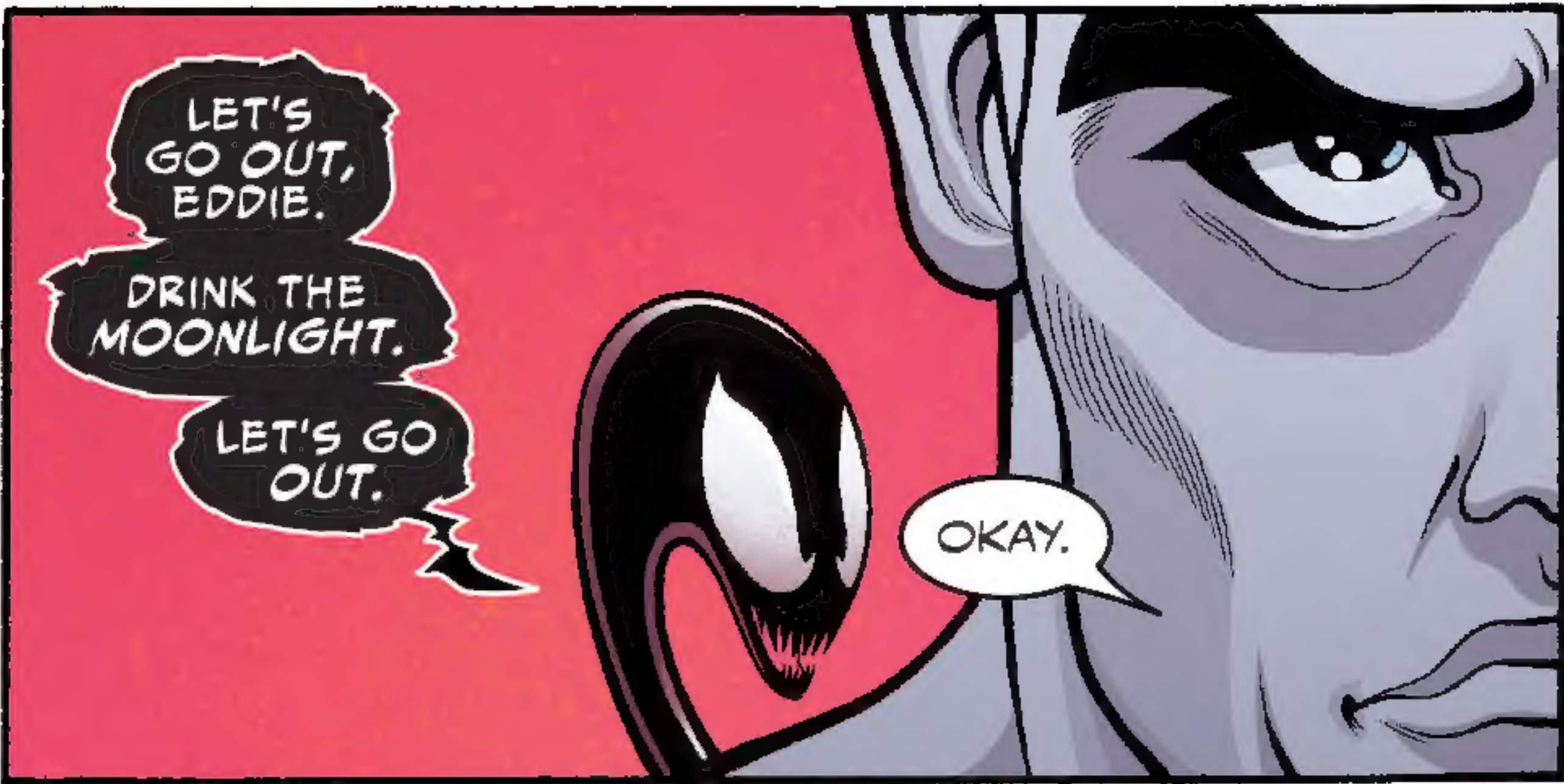
I'LL ADMIT...THERE WAS A TIME WHEN WE WERE **SEPARATED** THAT I WANTED TO GIVE UP. I THOUGHT I WOULD **DIE**.



THE THING ABOUT LOVE IS THAT IT'S NOT **GENTLE** OR **SOFT**. NOT AT ALL.

LOVE IS **STRENGTH**, AND FULL OF **TERRIBLE PURPOSE**. LOVE IS **POWER**, AND IT WILL **NEVER** BE DONE WITH YOU.

IT **CONSUMES** YOU.





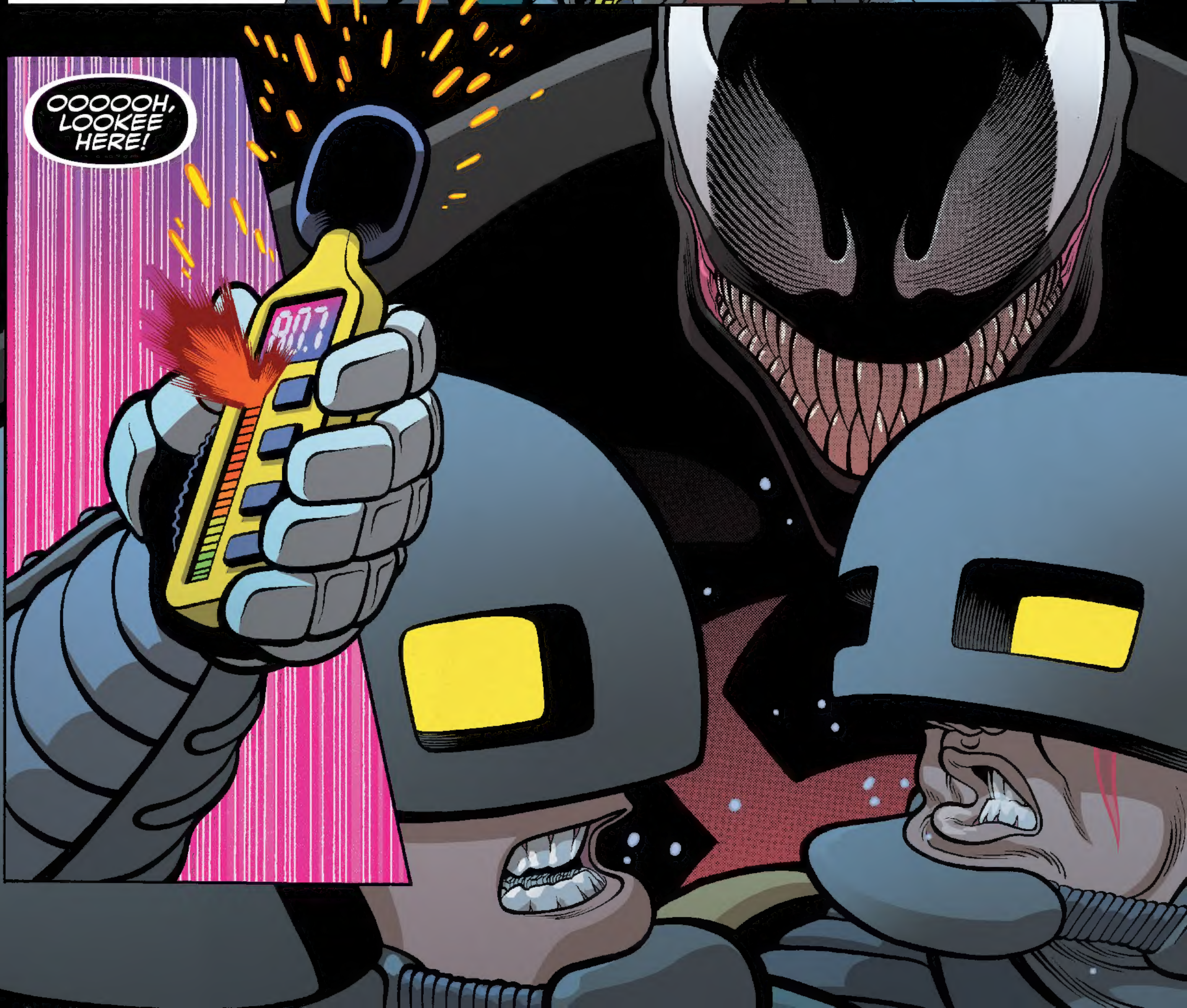
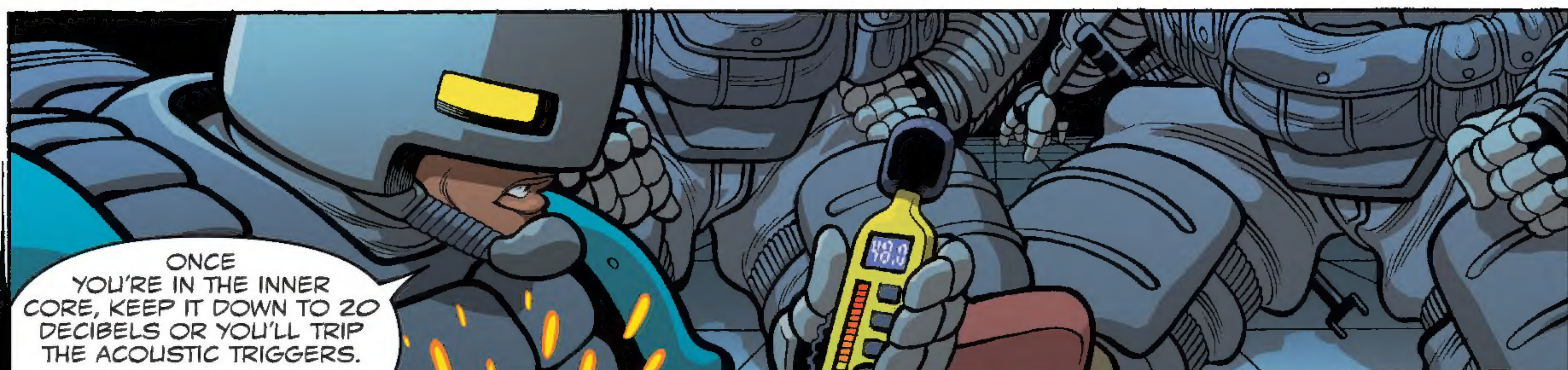
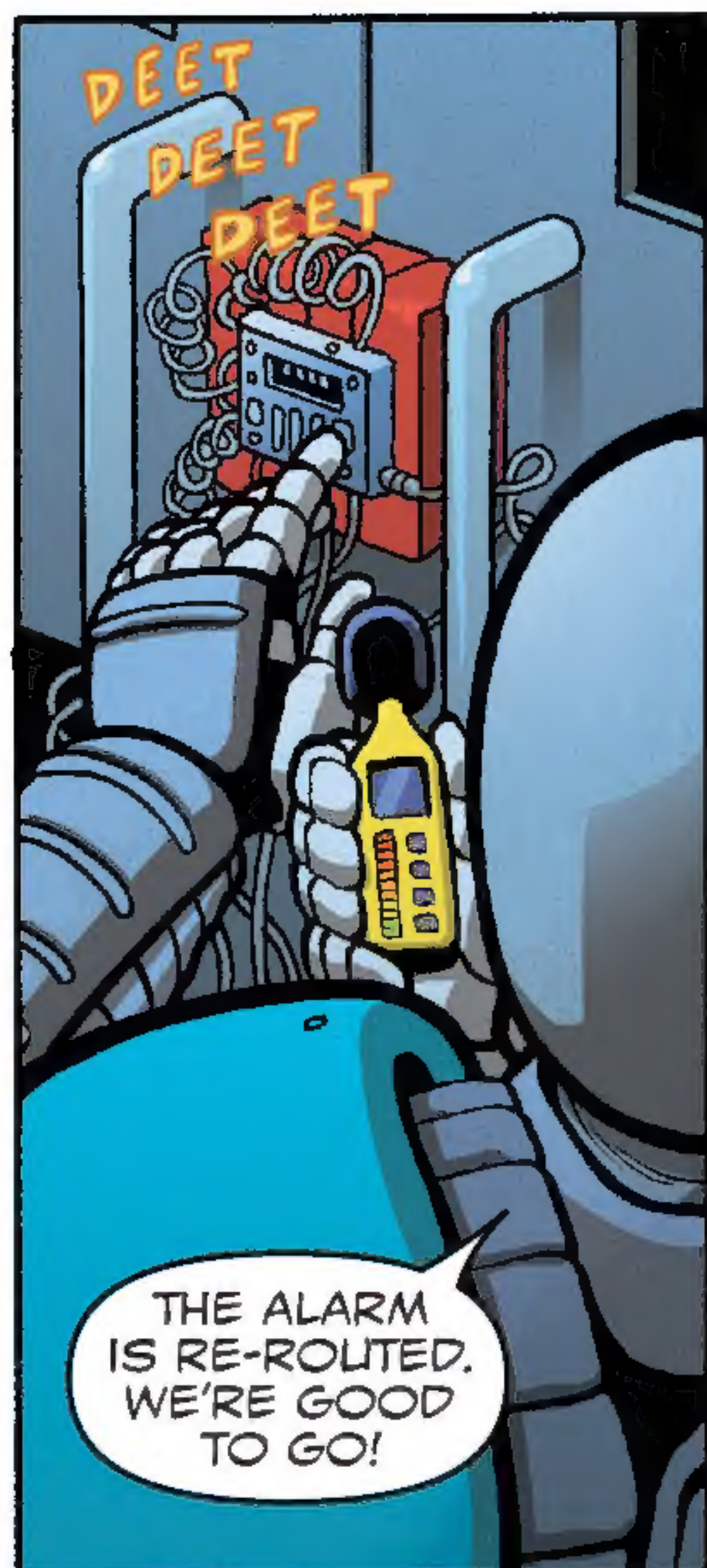
EDDIE!
LOOK!



LOOKS LIKE
A BREAK-IN.



STOP THEM.
WE HAVE TO
STOP THEM!





THIS IS A **BIOTECH FIRM**.
WHAT ARE YOU **TERRORISTS**
STEALING FROM THEM?
BIOLOGICAL
WEAPONS?

SOME
KIND OF **SUPER-
BUG?**

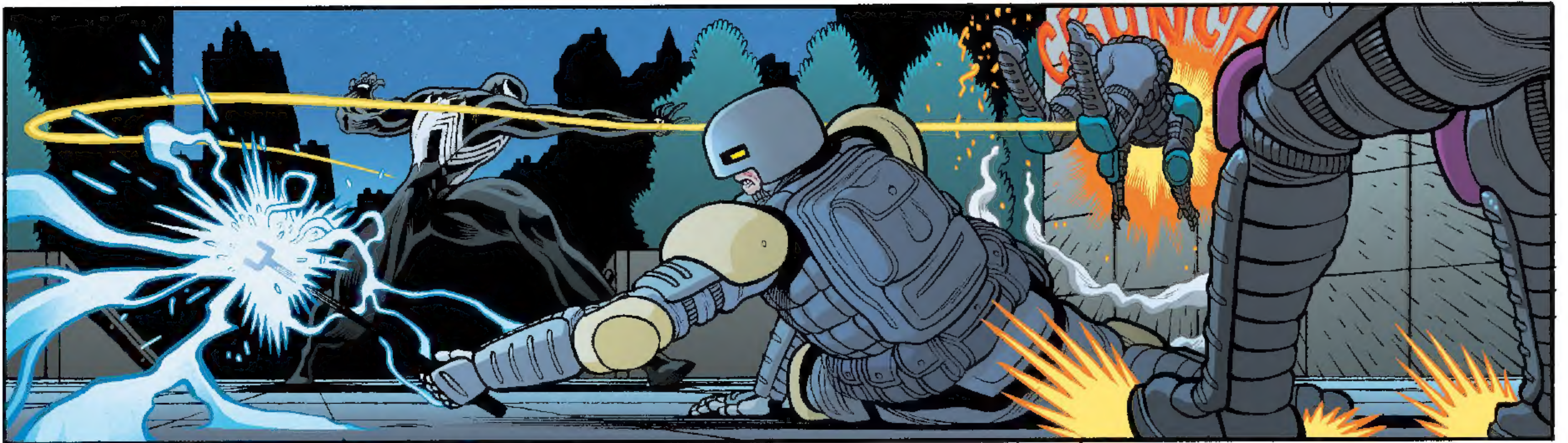
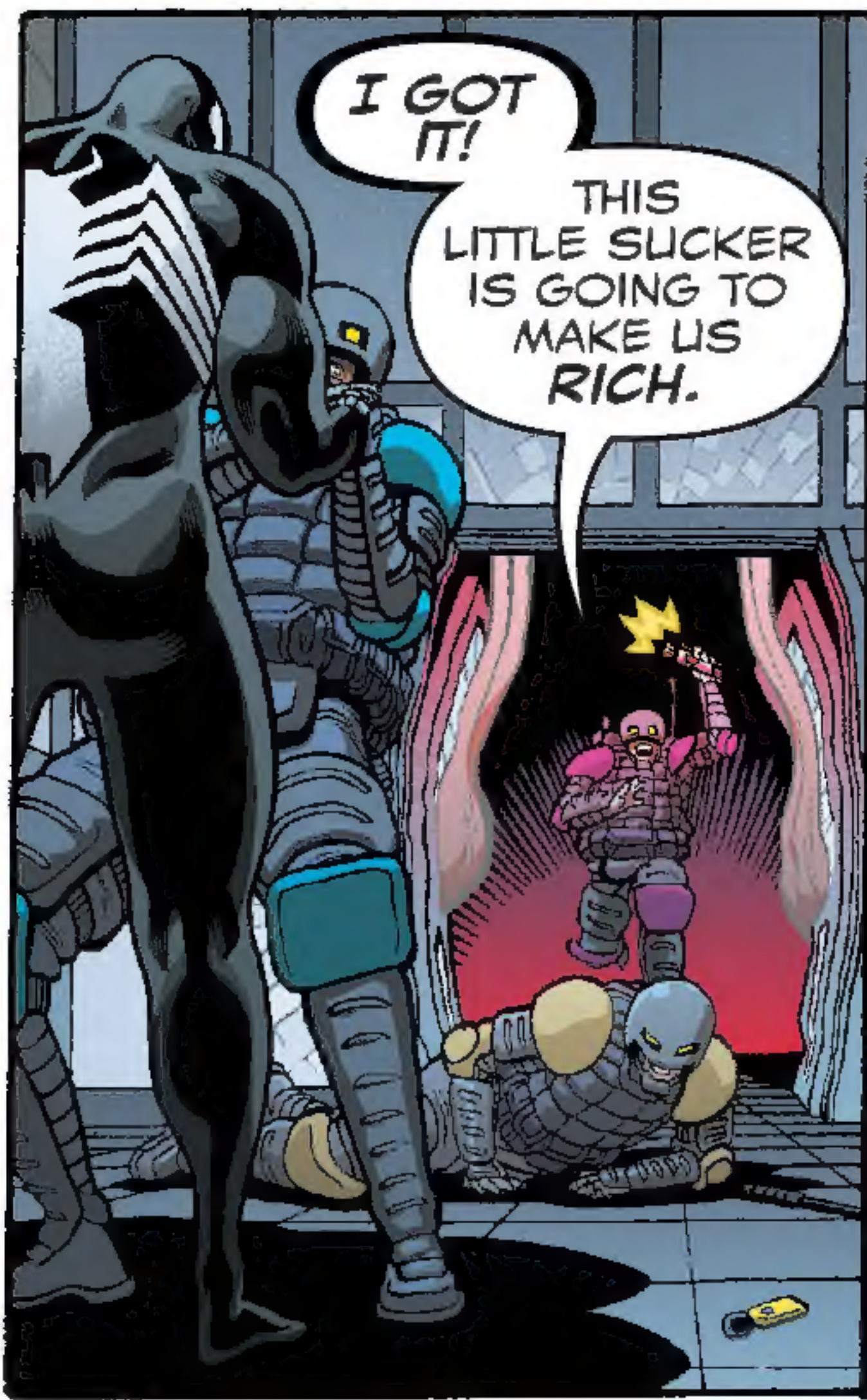


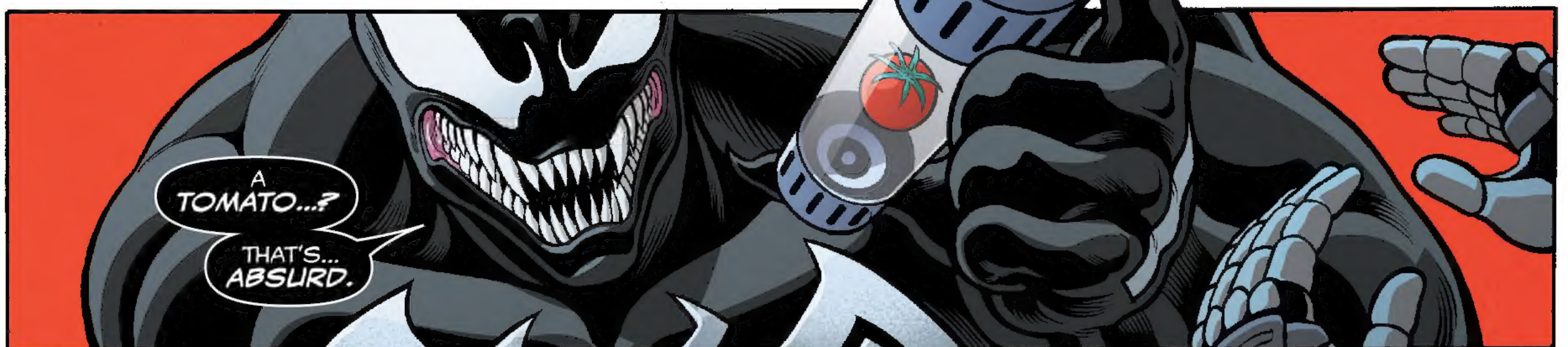
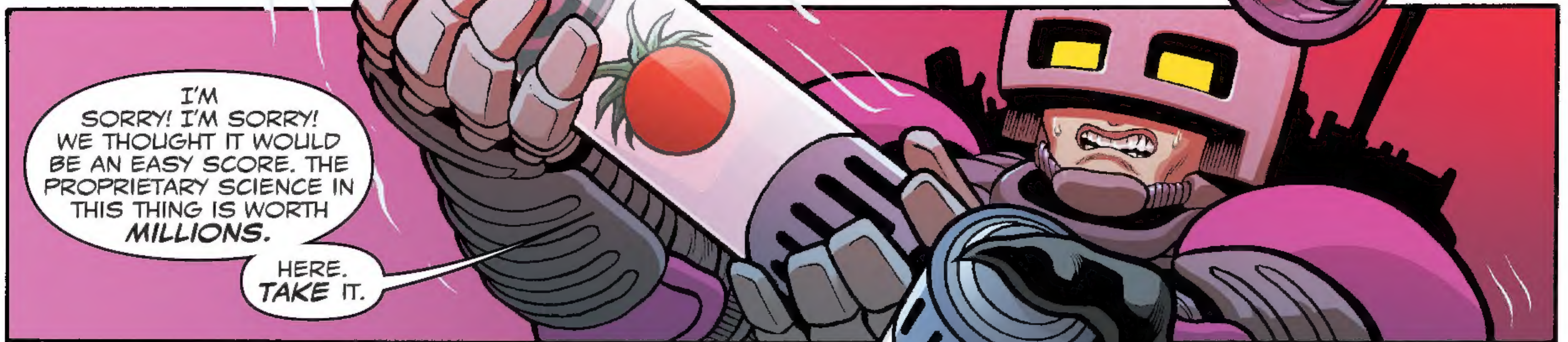
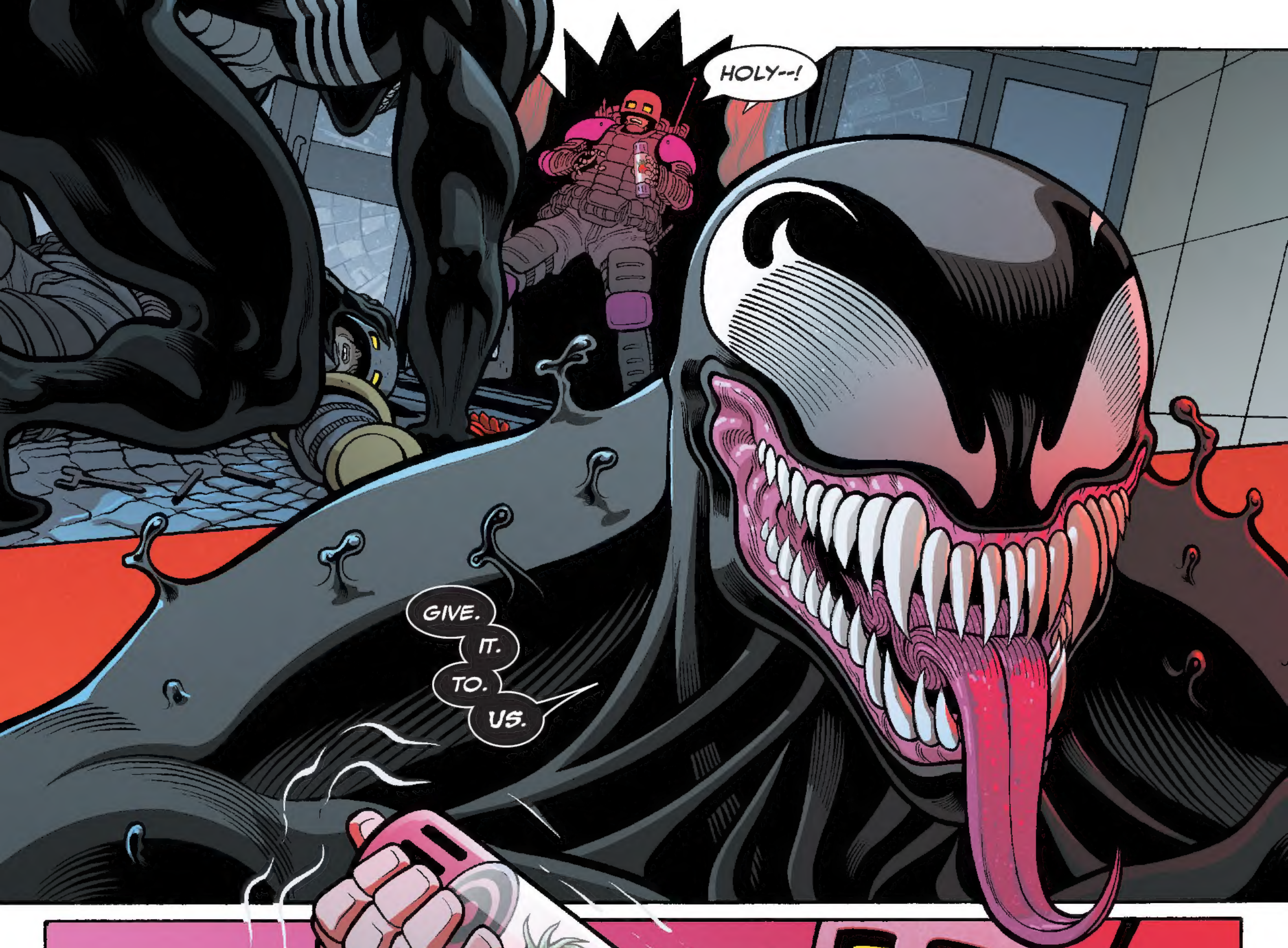
NOT...
TERRORISTS...
...PLEASE...



WE'RE NOT **TERRORISTS**, MAN!
WE'RE A **TECHNOLOGY**
GROUP.

WE'RE
JUST HERE ON
A **BEE JOB!** OUR
GEAR IS **NON-
LETHAL!**





WHAT...
WHAT **HAPPENED**
BACK THERE?

WHY
DID YOU DO
THAT?

WANT US TO BE
HEROES, EDDIE.

LITTLE MEN WERE
WHERE THEY DIDN'T
BELONG. TAKING
SOMETHING THAT
WASN'T **THEIRS**.

THEY
WEREN'T HURTING
ANYONE!

THIEVES,
EDDIE!

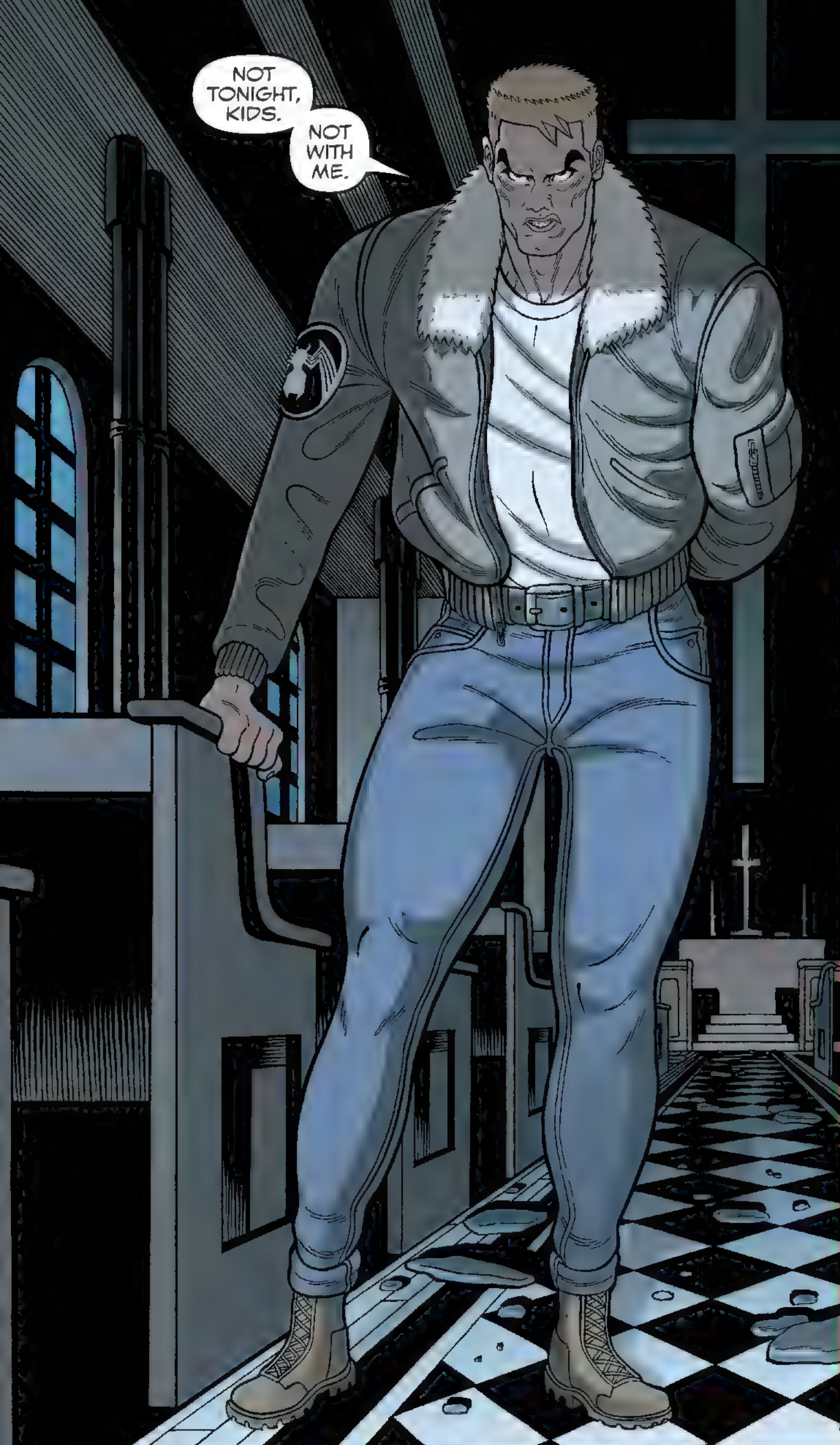
ISN'T THIS WHAT
YOU WANTED?

WE DON'T
BLUTCHER MEN
FOR BEING **THIEVES**!
WHAT WERE WE
THINKING?

EDDIE WANTS
TO BE **HERO**.

EDDIE CAN'T
LOOK **STUPID**.





NOT
TONIGHT,
KIDS.

NOT
WITH
ME.



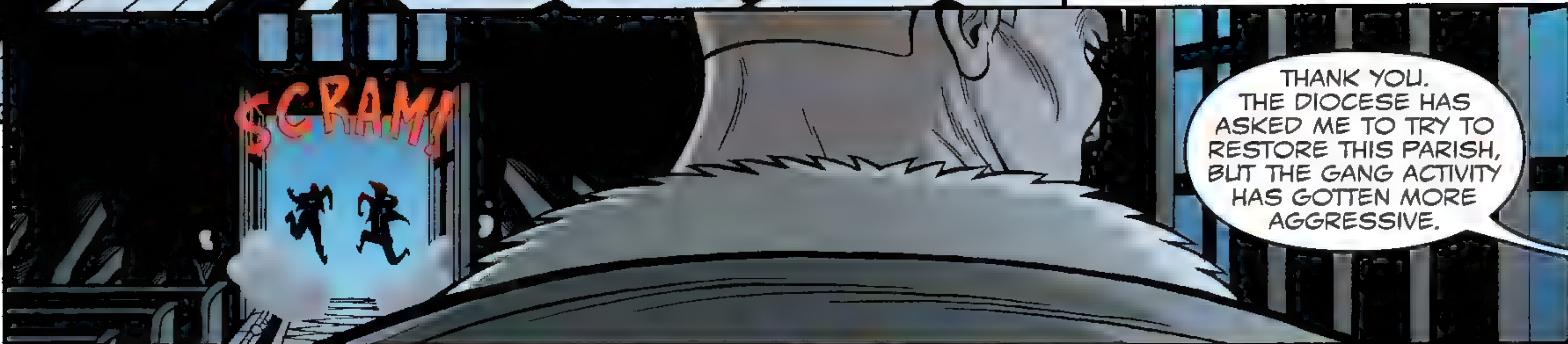
PLEASE.



YOU
KNOW WHAT?
##%& THIS.

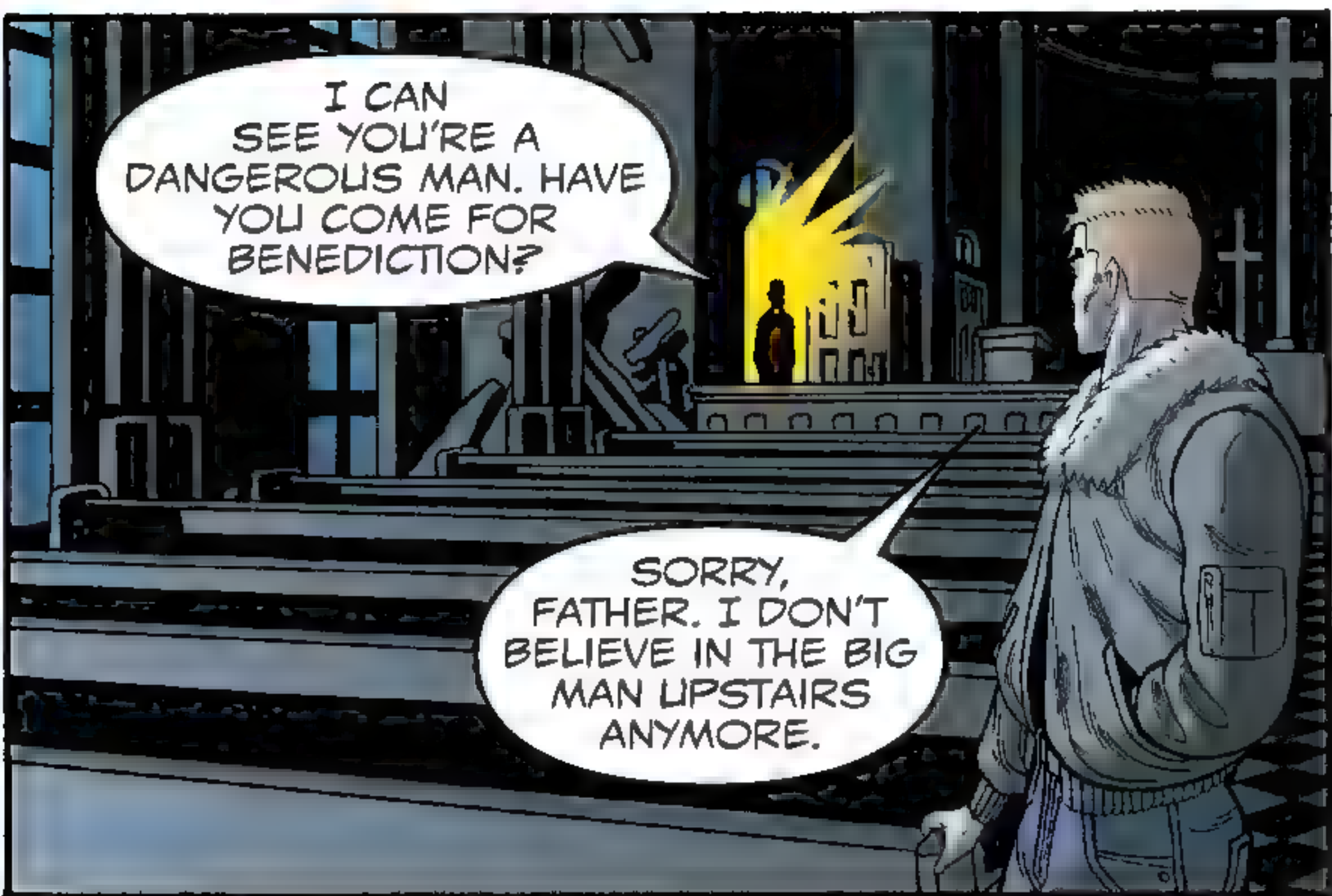
YEAH,
LET'S GET OUTTA
HERE.

WHAP!



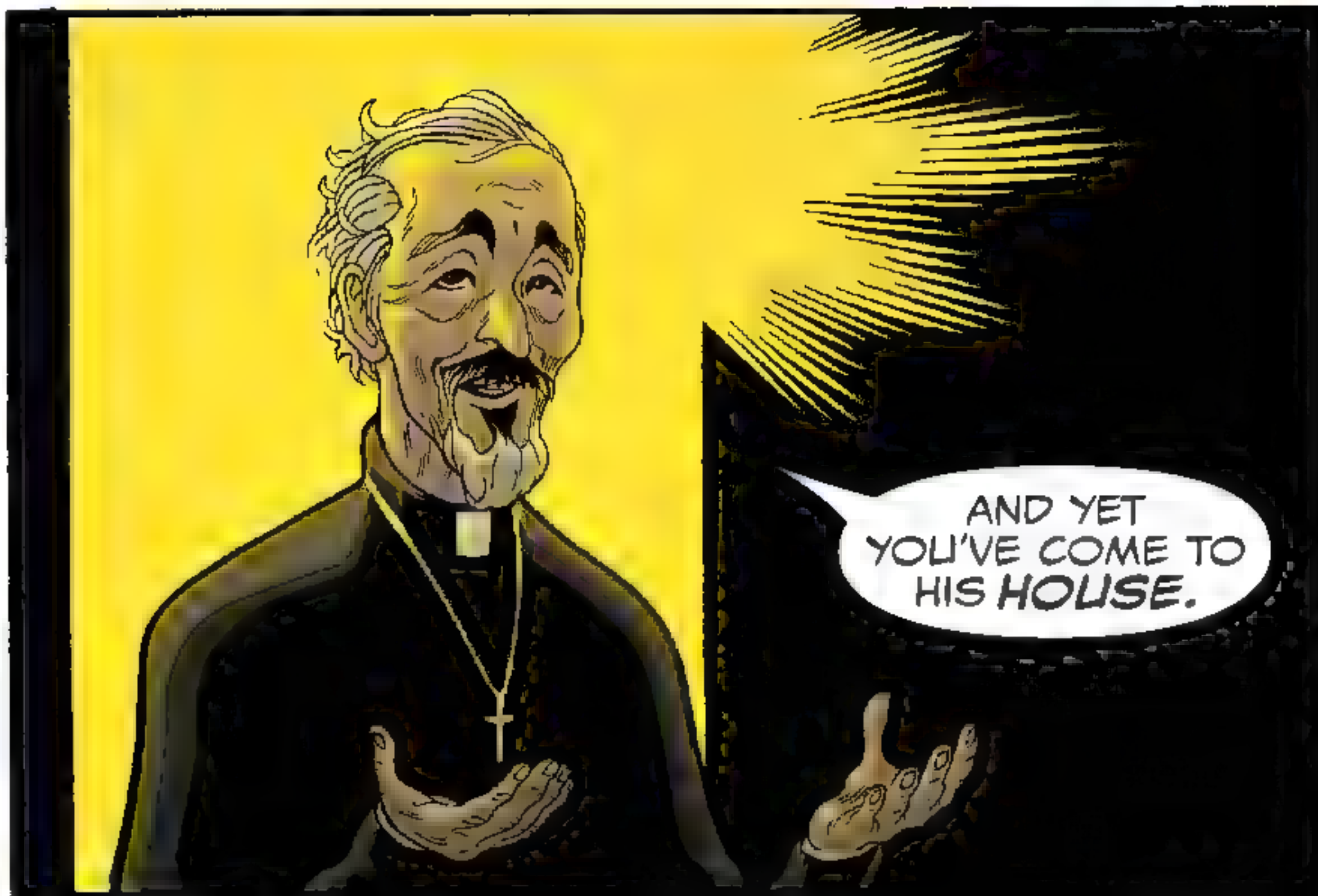
SCRAM!

THANK YOU.
THE DIOCESE HAS
ASKED ME TO TRY TO
RESTORE THIS PARISH,
BUT THE GANG ACTIVITY
HAS GOTTEN MORE
AGGRESSIVE.



I CAN
SEE YOU'RE A
DANGEROUS MAN. HAVE
YOU COME FOR
BENEDICTION?

SORRY,
FATHER. I DON'T
BELIEVE IN THE BIG
MAN UPSTAIRS
ANYMORE.



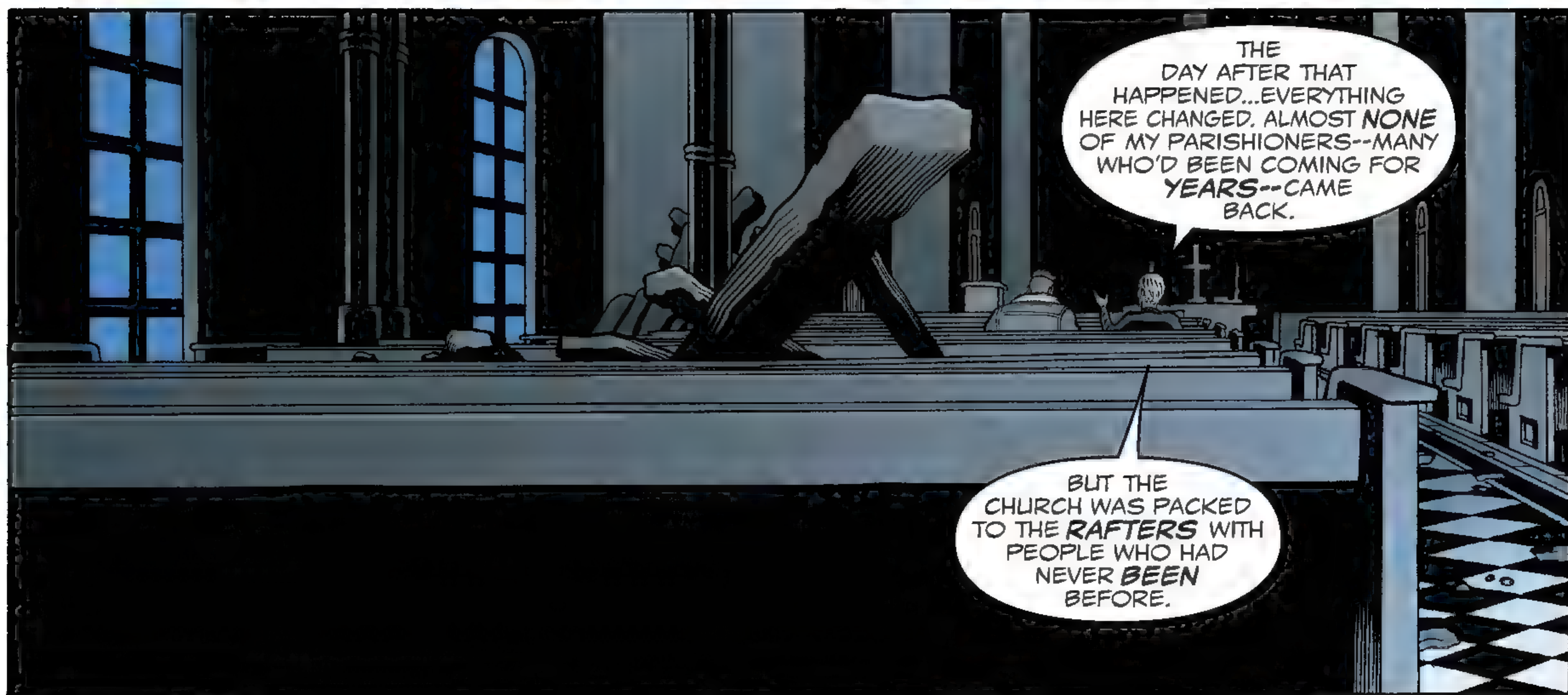
AND YET
YOU'VE COME TO
HIS HOUSE.



YOU KNOW THE BEING, "GALACTUS"? THE PURPLE **GIANT** FROM SPACE THAT CAME DOWN IN **TIMES SQUARE** ALL THOSE YEARS AGO?

FOUGHT THE **FANTASTIC FOUR**?

HEARD OF HIM.



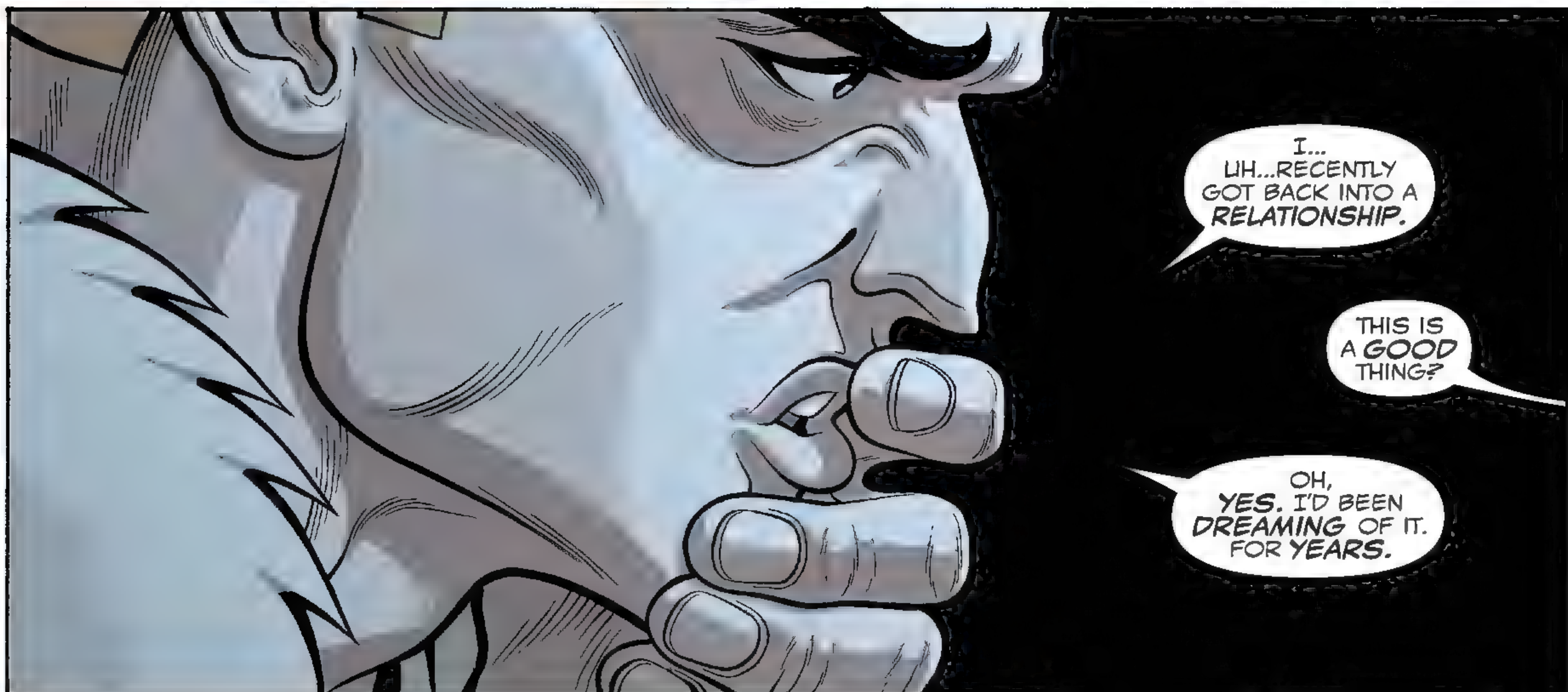
THE DAY AFTER THAT HAPPENED...EVERYTHING HERE CHANGED. ALMOST **NONE** OF MY PARISHIONERS--MANY WHO'D BEEN COMING FOR **YEARS**--CAME BACK.

BUT THE CHURCH WAS PACKED TO THE **RAFTERS** WITH PEOPLE WHO HAD NEVER **BEEN** BEFORE.



EARTH-EATING GIANTS FROM **SPACE**...THAT CHANGES THE **WORLD**.

BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO MEET AN **ALIEN** FOR YOUR WORLD TO CHANGE.



I... UH...RECENTLY GOT BACK INTO A **RELATIONSHIP**.

THIS IS A **GOOD** THING?

OH, YES. I'D BEEN **DREAMING** OF IT. FOR YEARS.



AND NOW
IT'S HAPPENED...
AND IT'S NOT AS YOU'D
HOPED? THINGS HAVE
CHANGED?



I WENT
THROUGH **SO MUCH**
TO GET THIS
BACK. **SO MUCH PAIN.**

AND NOW...
I **DID** SOMETHING
TONIGHT I THOUGHT I'D
NEVER DO AGAIN. I THOUGHT
THOSE DAYS WOULD BE
BEHIND ME.



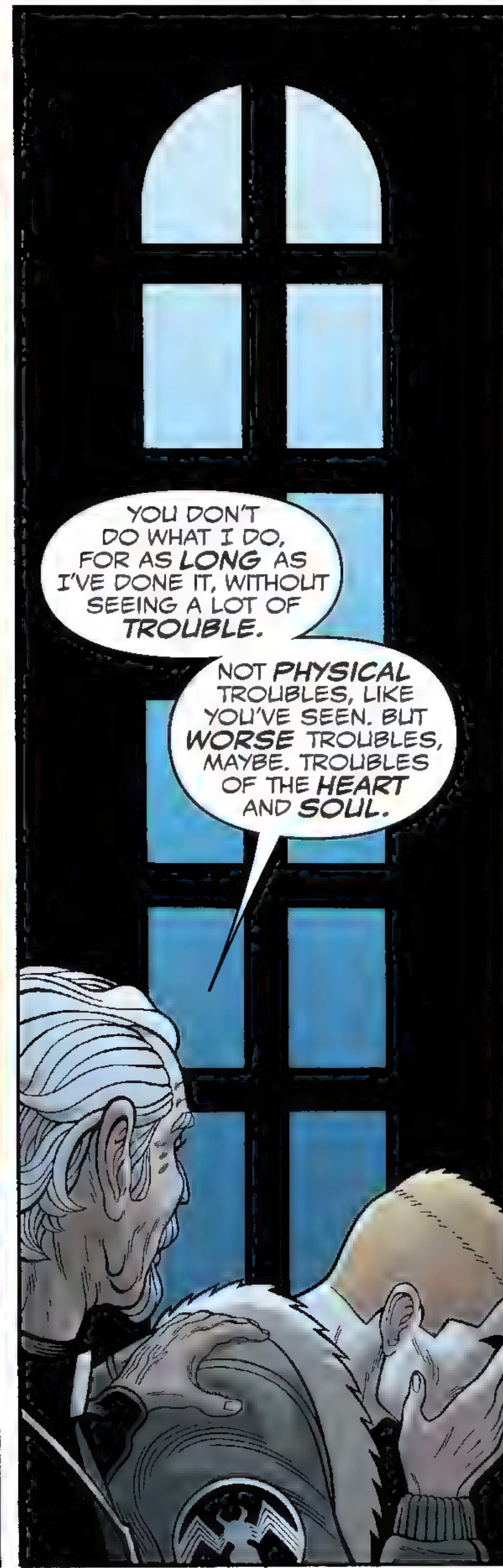
YOUR...
PARINTER MADE
YOU DO SOMETHING?
AND NOW YOU
REGRET--

NO.



I WILL
NEVER REGRET
THIS REUNION. I
COULDN'T GO ON
LIVING WITHOUT
IT.

WE'RE
TOGETHER NOW...
BUT I DON'T KNOW
WHO WE **ARE**
TOGETHER.



YOU DON'T
DO WHAT I DO,
FOR AS **LONG** AS
I'VE DONE IT, WITHOUT
SEEING A LOT OF
TROUBLE.

NOT **PHYSICAL**
TROUBLES, LIKE
YOU'VE SEEN. BUT
WORSE TROUBLES,
MAYBE. TROUBLES
OF THE **HEART**
AND **SOUL.**

IF SOMEONE
LOVES YOU, MY SON...
THEY DON'T FORCE YOU TO
DO THINGS YOU DON'T
WANT TO DO.

DON'T LIKE
THIS MAN,
EDDIE.

YOU
DON'T KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT.

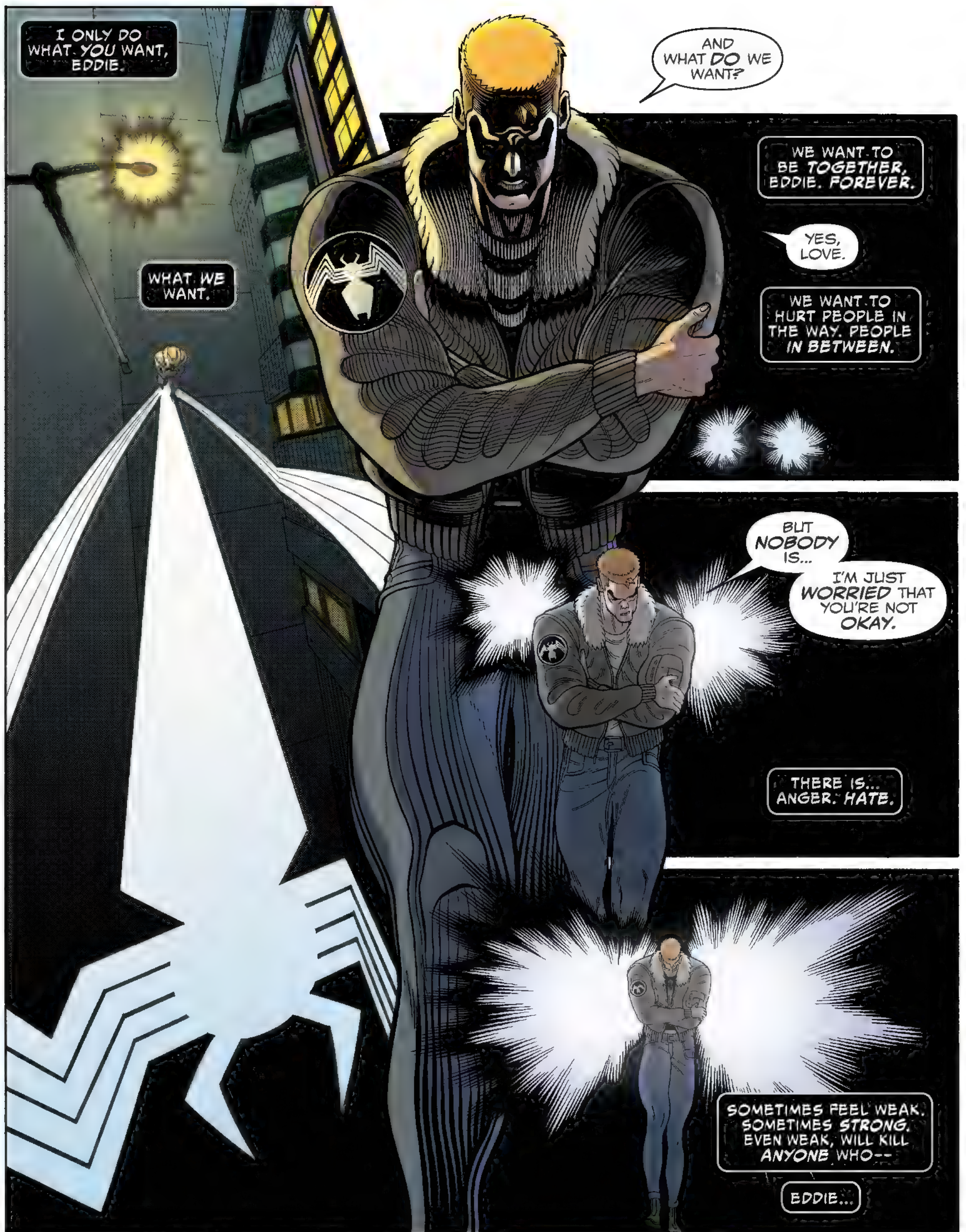
I KNOW
OBSESSION WHEN
I HEAR IT. I KNOW WHAT
LOVE TURNS INTO, WHEN
IT'S USED TO JUSTIFY
PAIN.

IT TURNS
INTO SOMETHING
UGLY.

WHAT'S HE
SAYING, EDDIE?
DON'T LIKE IT!

I
HAVE TO
GO.

I'M HERE
WHEN YOU WANT
TO TALK ABOUT
IT.



I ONLY DO
WHAT YOU WANT,
EDDIE.

AND
WHAT DO WE
WANT?

WE WANT TO
BE TOGETHER,
EDDIE. FOREVER.

YES,
LOVE.

WE WANT TO
HURT PEOPLE IN
THE WAY. PEOPLE
IN BETWEEN.

WHAT WE
WANT.

BUT
NOBODY
IS...

I'M JUST
WORRIED THAT
YOU'RE NOT
OKAY.

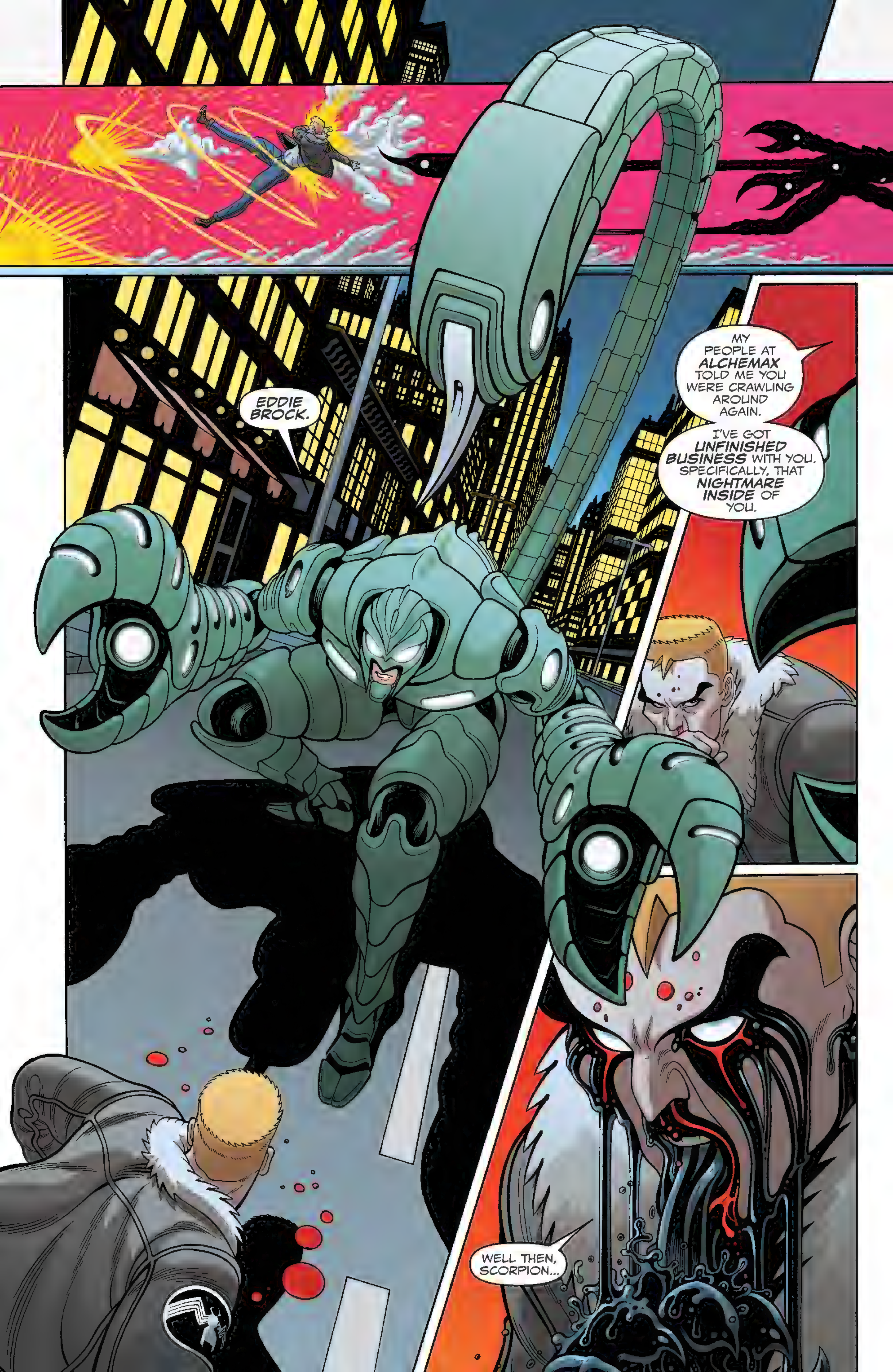
THERE IS...
ANGER. HATE.

SOMETIMES FEEL WEAK.
SOMETIMES STRONG.
EVEN WEAK, WILL KILL
ANYONE WHO--

EDDIE...



...EDDIE,
BEHIND!



EDDIE BROCK.

MY PEOPLE AT **ALCHEMAX** TOLD ME YOU WERE CRAWLING AROUND AGAIN.

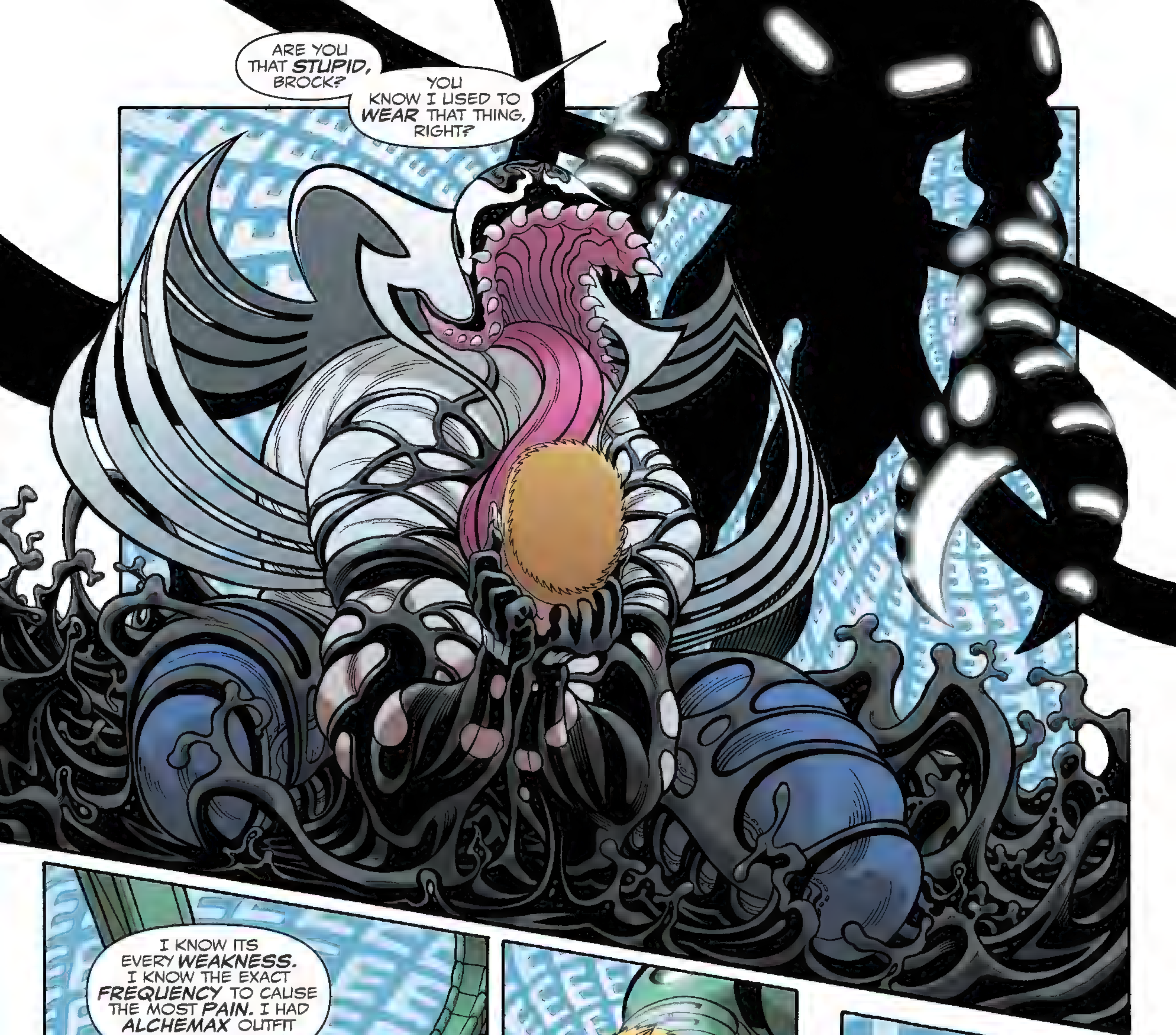
I'VE GOT **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** WITH YOU. SPECIFICALLY, THAT **NIGHTMARE** INSIDE OF YOU.

WELL THEN, SCORPION...



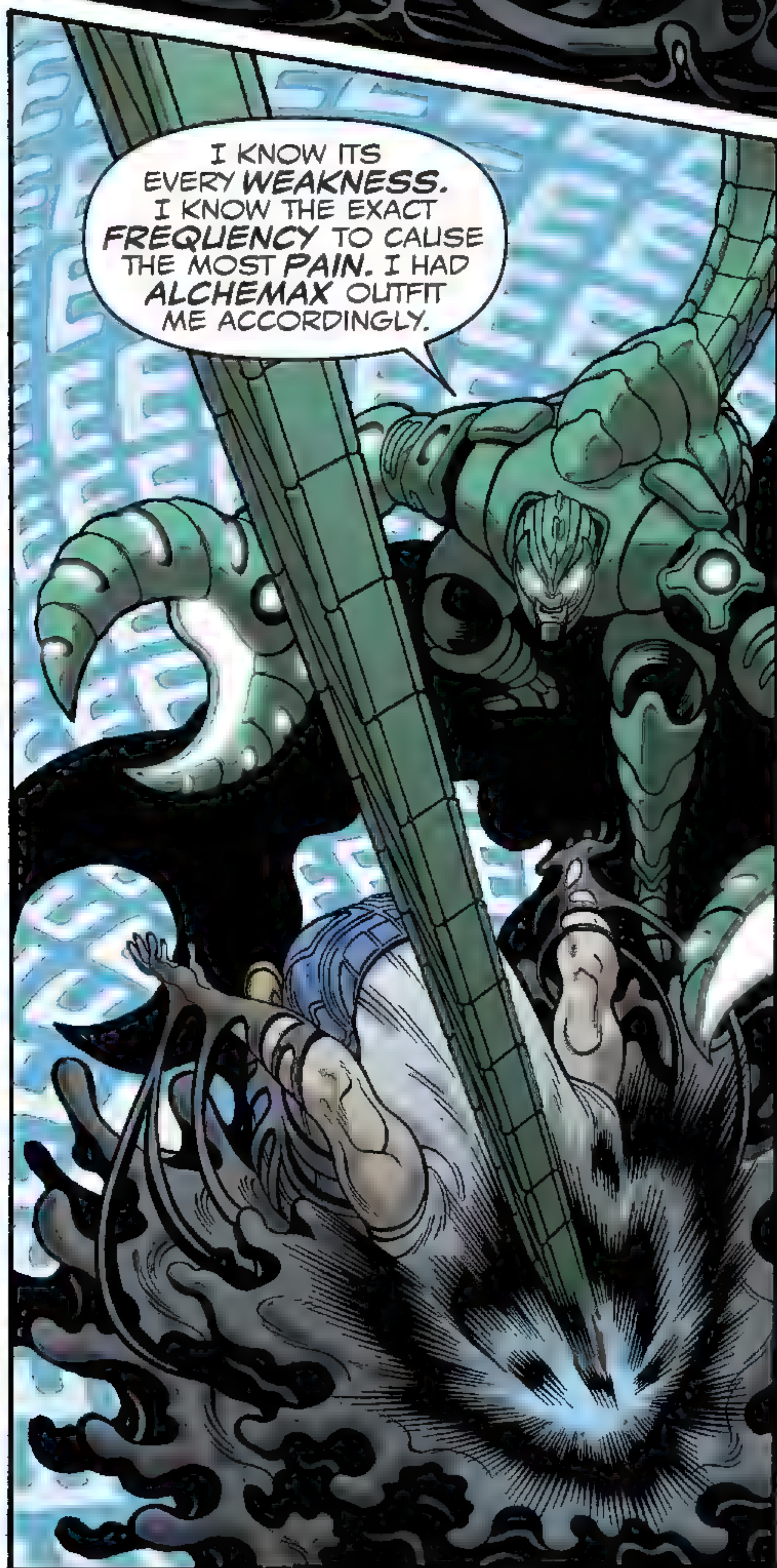
LET'S
FINISH
IT!





ARE YOU
THAT **STUPID**,
BROCK?

YOU
KNOW I USED TO
WEAR THAT THING,
RIGHT?



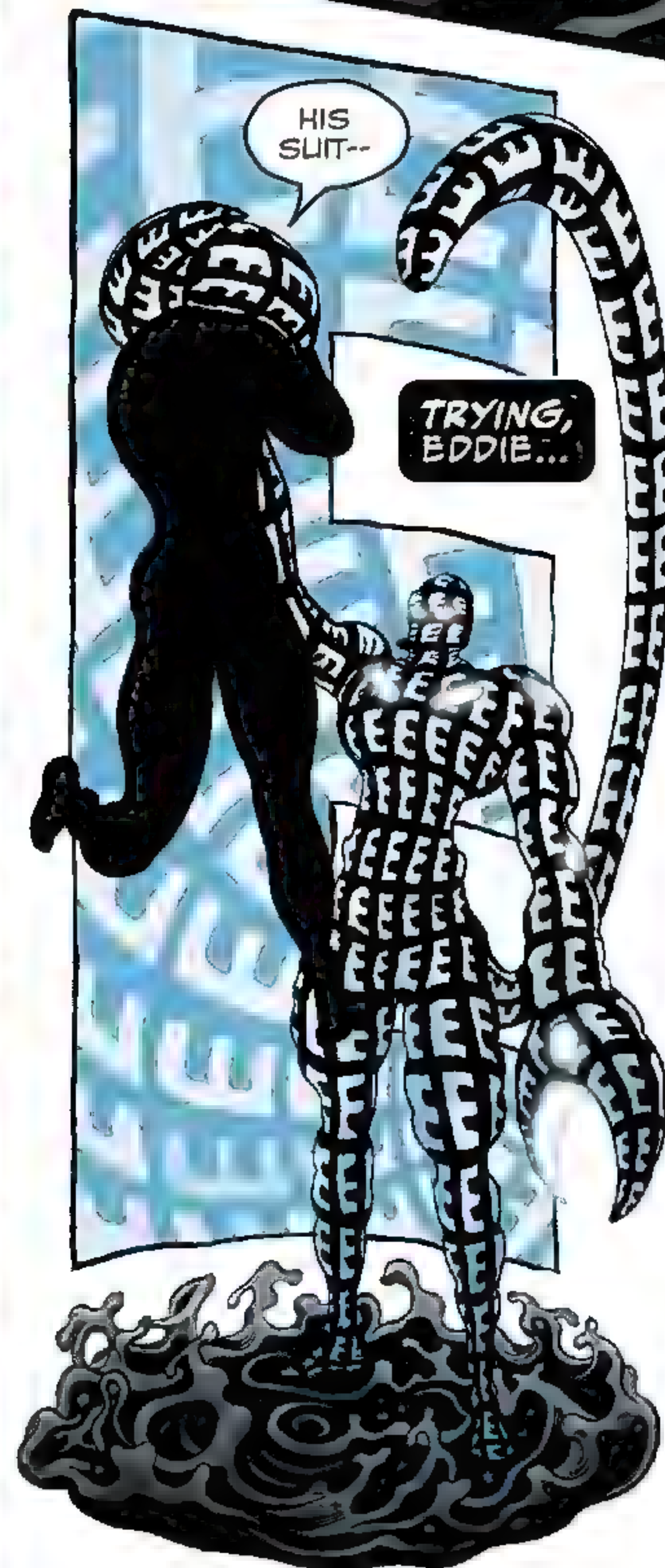
I KNOW ITS
EVERY **WEAKNESS**.
I KNOW THE EXACT
FREQUENCY TO CAUSE
THE MOST PAIN. I HAD
ALCHEMAX OUTFIT
ME ACCORDINGLY.



I'LL PULP
YOUR HEAD AND
BURN THAT THING
TO **CINDERS**.

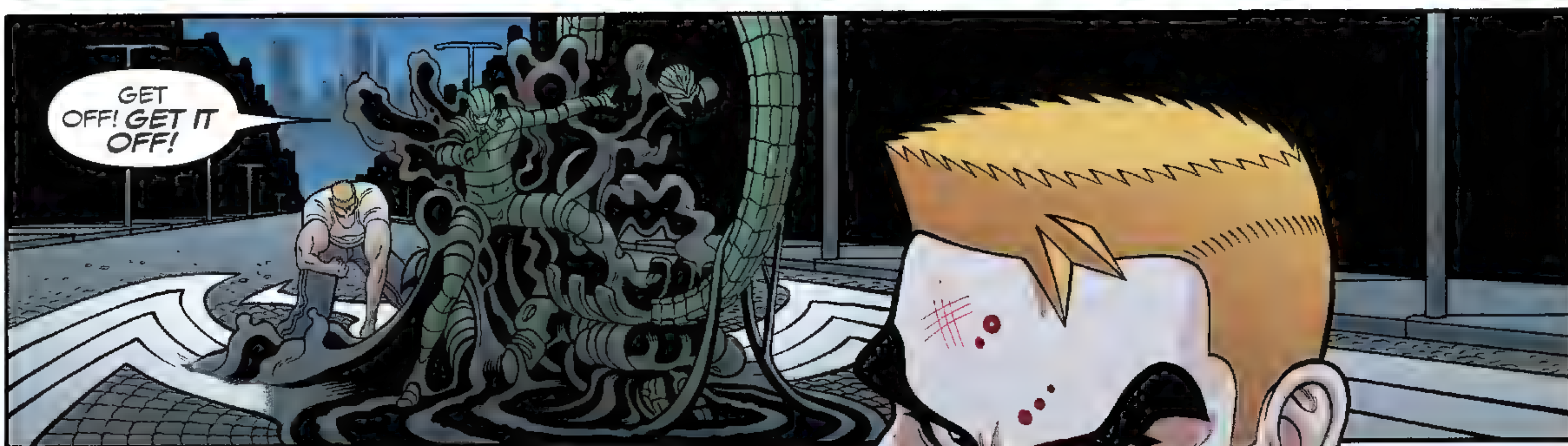
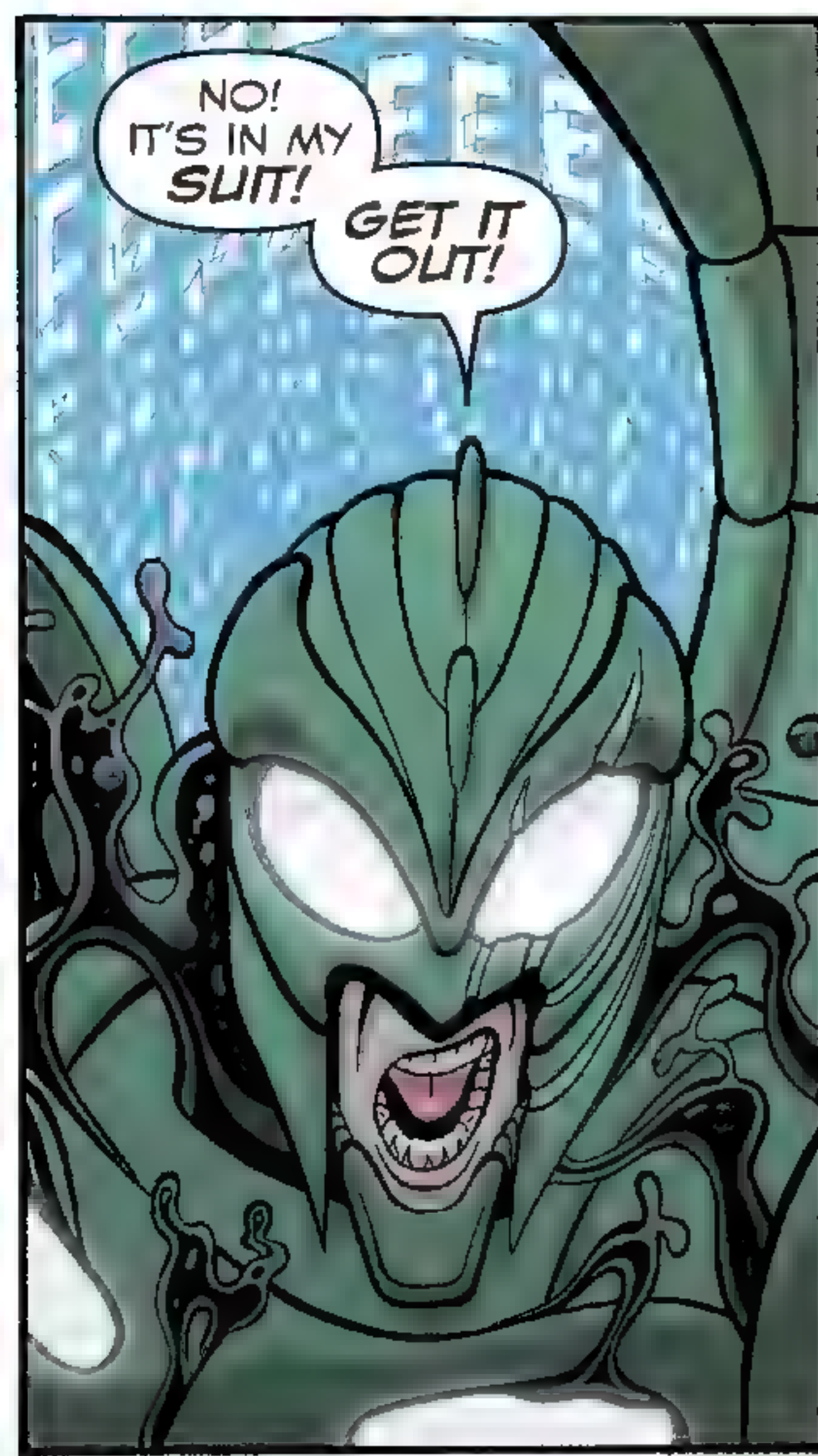
I CAN
STILL HEAR THE
HORRORS IT WOULD
WHISPER IN MY
MIND.

HE'S
SCARED
OF YOU.



HIS
SUIT--

TRYING,
EDDIE...





TOOK
MORE OUT
OF ME...

...THAN I
THOUGHT.

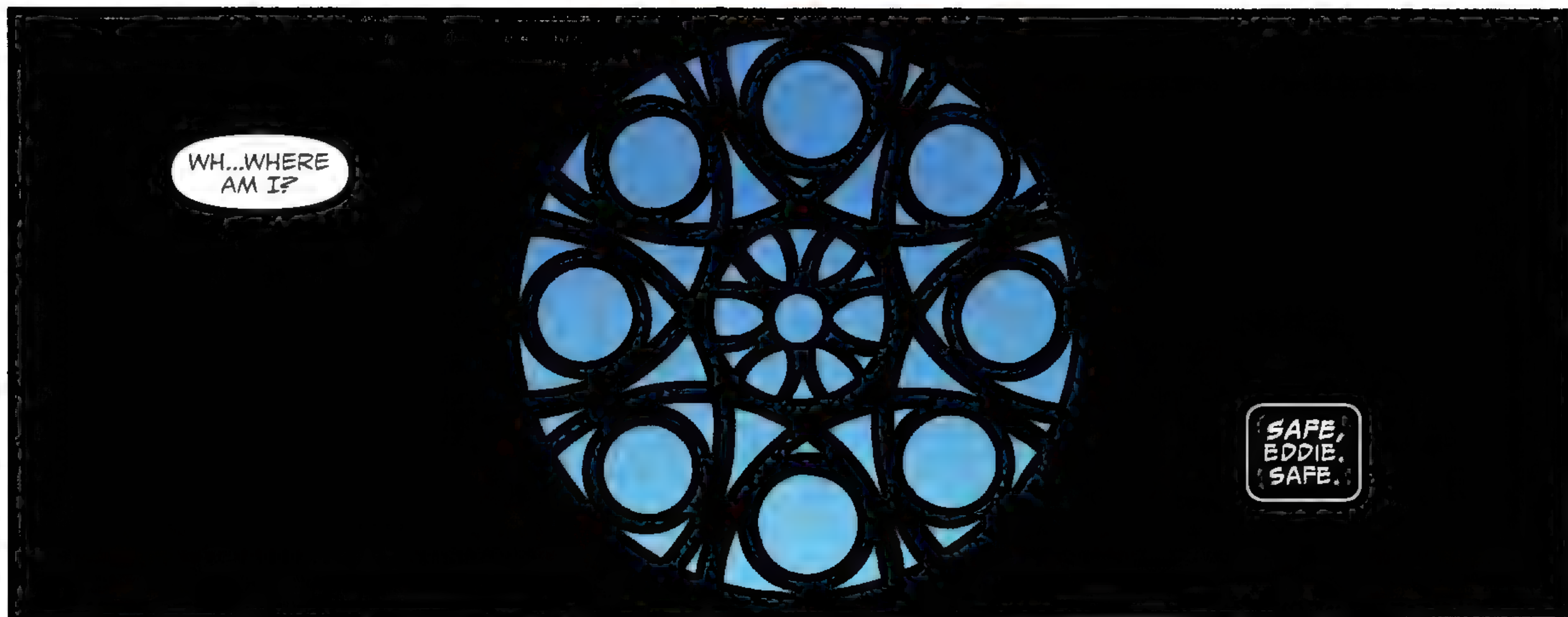
WE HAVE
TO GET OUT
OF HERE...

CAN'T LET
THEM FIND US
AND TAKE YOU
AWAY...

DON'T WORRY,
EDDIE.

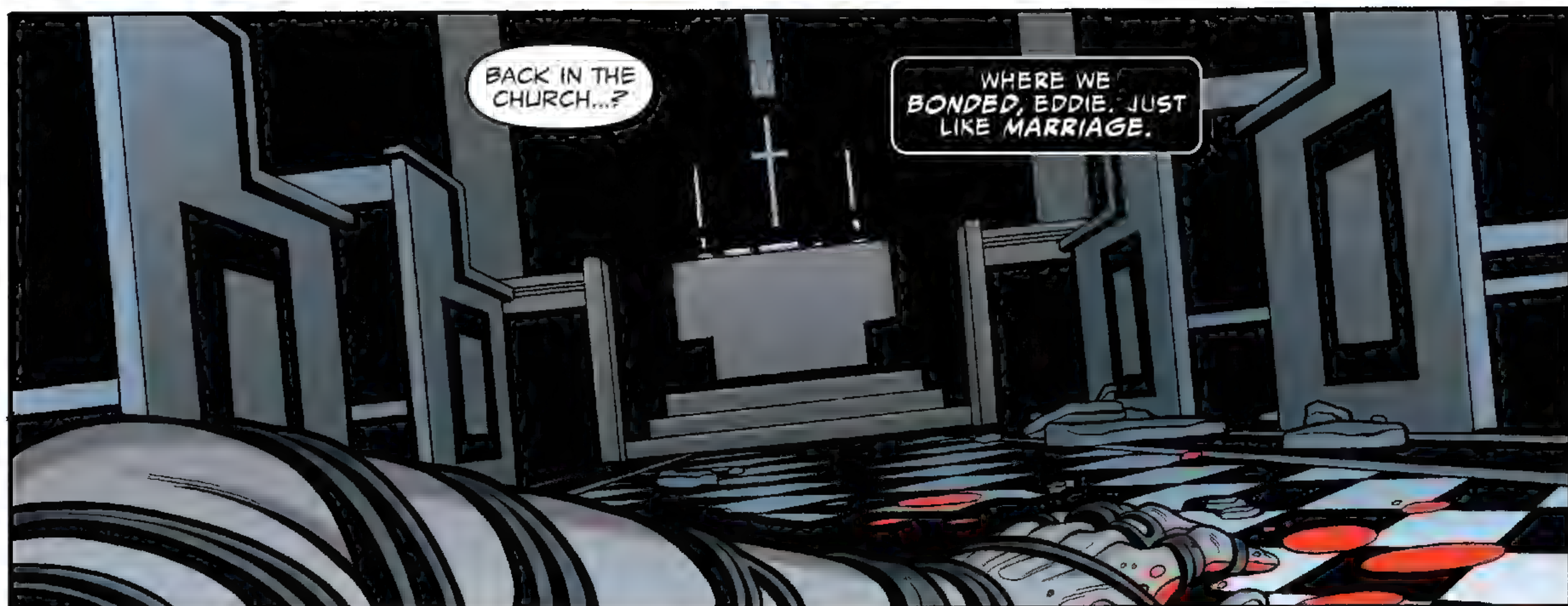
ALWAYS
TAKE CARE
OF YOU.

WON'T LET
ANYONE GET
BETWEEN US.



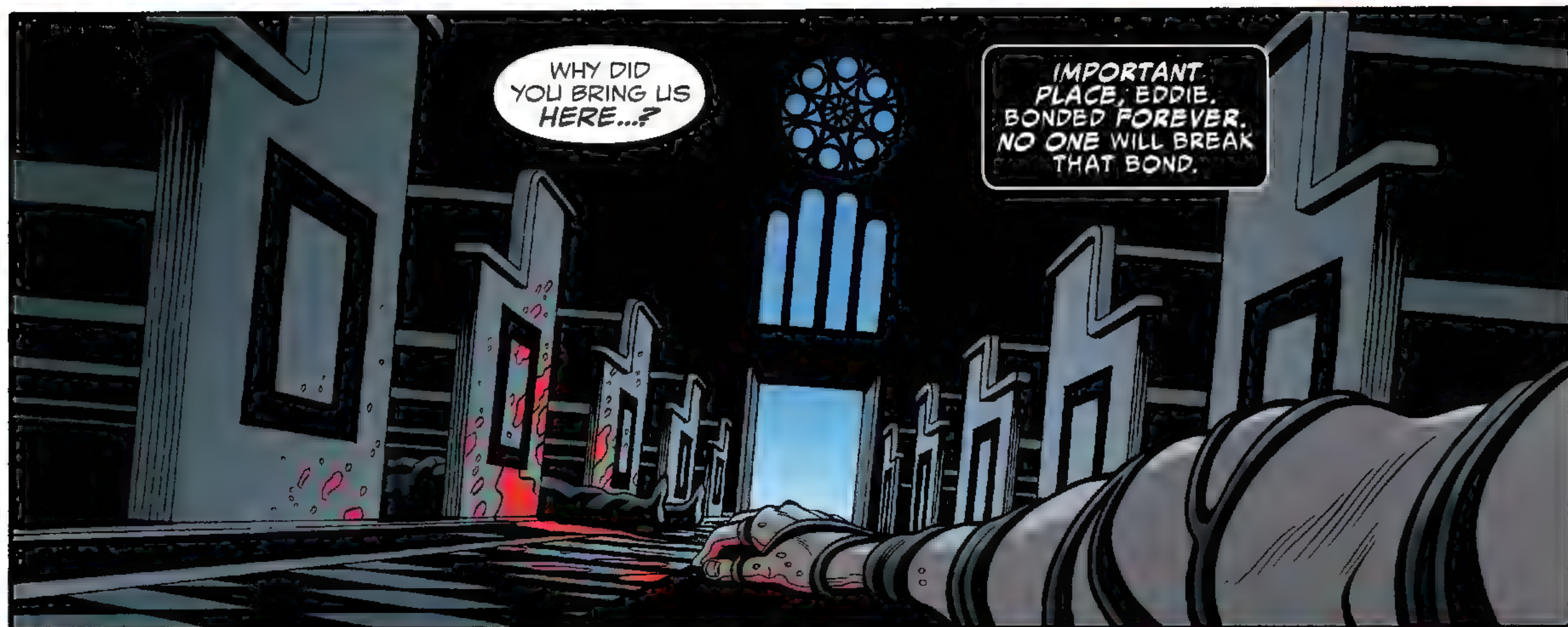
WH...WHERE
AM I?

SAFE,
EDDIE,
SAFE.



BACK IN THE
CHURCH...?

WHERE WE
BONDED, EDDIE. JUST
LIKE MARRIAGE.



WHY DID
YOU BRING US
HERE...?

IMPORTANT
PLACE, EDDIE.
BONDED FOREVER.
NO ONE WILL BREAK
THAT BOND.



OH, NO.
WHAT DID YOU
DO?

WHAT WE DID,
EDDIE. WHAT
WE DO TO ANY
WHO COME
BETWEEN US.

NO ONE WILL
PULL US APART
AGAIN.

TO BE CONTINUED IN

VENOM #151!

CONTEMPLATING SUICIDE AFTER HIS LIFE FELL APART, DISGRACED REPORTER EDDIE BROCK SOUGHT FORGIVENESS AT THE SAME CHURCH WHERE SPIDER-MAN WAS REJECTING A LIVING, ALIEN COSTUME CALLED A SYMBIOTE. SENSING BROCK'S MISERY, THE SYMBIOTE BONDED WITH HIM AND IMBUED HIM WITH POWERS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.

FOR A TIME, EDDIE TRIED TO BE A HERO. HOWEVER, HIS VIOLENT METHODS OFTEN PUT HIM AT ODDS WITH HEROES AND VILLAINS ALIKE. EVENTUALLY, EDDIE AND THE SYMBIOTE WERE SEPARATED, AND, FOR A TIME, THEY WENT THEIR SEPARATE WAYS.

FOR A TIME, THEY WERE HAPPY LIVING SEPARATELY. BUT WHEN FATE OFFERED THEM THE CHANCE TO REUNITE, THEY FOUND THEMSELVES UNABLE TO RESIST.

TOGETHER OR APART, EDDIE AND THE SYMBIOTE WILL ALWAYS BE...

VENOM

HEART OF DARKNESS

MIKE COSTA
WRITER

TRADD MOORE
ARTIST

FELIPE SOBREIRO
COLOR ARTIST

VC'S CLAYTON COWLES
LETTERER

GERARDO SANDOVAL
COVER ARTIST

MARK BAGLEY AND RICHARD ISANOVE
[REMASTERED]; CLAYTON CRAIN; GABRIELE
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PRESIDENT

ALAN FINE
EXEC. PRODUCER

WEEKS
AGO...

"IT WAS ALL
GOING SO
WELL.

"I ALMOST HAD
MYSELF CONVINCED
EVERYTHING WAS
OKAY.

"I WAS GRATEFUL
TO BE HOME AGAIN.

"GRATEFUL TO
BE WITH **FAMILY**.

UGH,
NEW YORK
SUCKS.

HEY, WATCH
YOUR MOUTH,
SUNSHINE.

THESE
LOWER DEMONS
DON'T KNOW ABOUT
YOUR HELL-MARK,
DO THEY?

NAH,
BUT WE CAN STILL
PUNCH 'EM REAL
GOOD.

I LIKE
YOUR STYLE,
MANIA.

"I SHOULD
HAVE KNOWN
BETTER...

OKAY, FINE.
NYC PIZZA **IS**
BETTER.

"...NOTHING
THAT GOOD
CAN LAST.

SAME TIME
TOMORROW
NIGHT?

YOU BET,
COACH!

DO YOUR
HOMEWORK.

YOU'RE
NOT MY,
MOM.

BETA DEPARTING.
ALPHA IS ALONE. YOU
SURE THIS TECH CAN
WITHSTAND ALPHA?

HE'S THE
WEAKER OF THE
TWO. AND HE'S THE
ORIGINAL MAKE AND
MODEL. HENCE THE
"ALPHA." NOW MOVE
BEFORE HE--



WE'RE
ALONE NOW.
YOU'VE BEEN
FOLLOWING
ME ALL
NIGHT...



...LET'S DO
THIS!



NOT
THE TALKING
TYPE, HUH? HOW ABOUT
WE GET THAT MASK OFF
YOURS, AND
SEE WHAT--



NYARGH!



BIG
MISTAKE, PAL.
NOW YOU'VE
MADE US...



...ANGRY!

THIS WAS
YOUR PLAN?
GET BEATEN
DOWN?

NOT
EXACTLY...

...JUST
NEEDED...
TO GET... YOU
CLOSE...



!!!

GAH!

YOU'RE
GONNA PAY
FOR THAT,
PAL!

NYARRRRRGH!

AAAAAARGH!

EASY,
VENOM, IT'S
JUST ME.

SNYARGH!

BUDDY...
IT'S ME. JUST
CALM DO--



VENOM,
WAIT!

NOT SO
TOUGH WITHOUT
YOUR FRIEND,
EH--?

STAY THE
HELL AWAY
FROM ME AND
MY FRIEND,
PAL.

VENOM,
WAIT!

→KZZT→ SITREP,
OVER. →BZZKKZZT→
YOUR VITALS ARE
SPIKING.

I'M FINE,
I'M FINE. THE SUIT
IS DONE, THOUGH. DON'T
WORRY. IT SERVED ITS
PURPOSE...

...THE
PACKAGE HAS
BEEN SEPARATED
AND IS IN THE
OPEN.

EXCELLENT WORK,
AGENT WAMBAUGH.
EXFIL TEAM IS EN ROUTE.
WE'LL HAVE YOU OUT OF
THERE IN MINUTES.



"I KNEW MY PARTNER WAS HURT."

"I SEARCHED EVERYWHERE FOR HIM."



HE WAS HERE, I CAN FEEL IT. AND HE'S STILL IN PAIN.

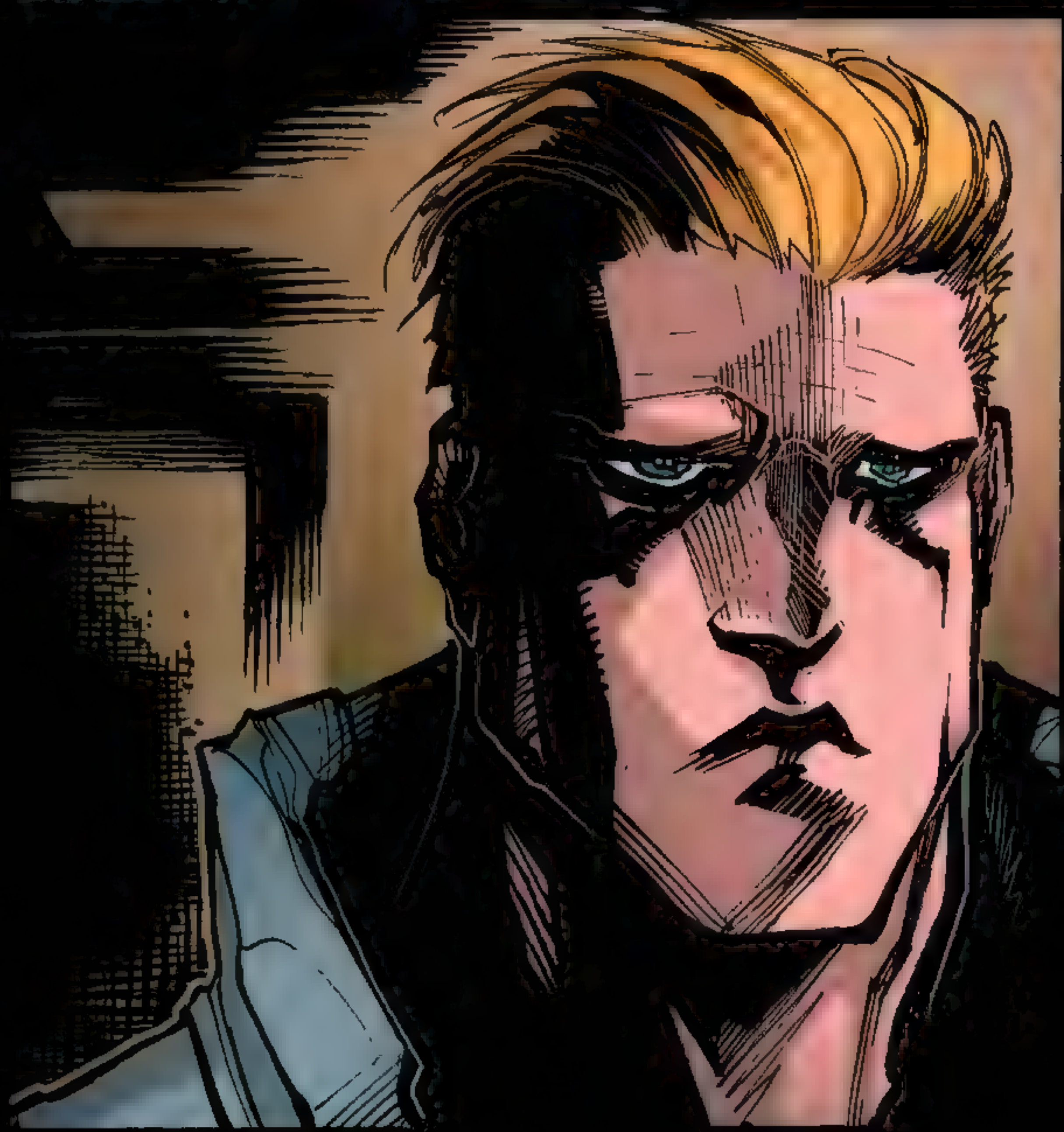
"WHEN I LOST HIS TRAIL..."



"...I LOST HOPE."



"WHICH IS WHY I'M HERE."



AND I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU ALL FOR LISTENING TONIGHT.

I JUST... I JUST HOPE MY PARTNER--MY FRIEND-- HAS SOMEONE HE CAN TALK TO NOW.

I HOPE HE'S NOT ALONE.

IT WAS ALL GOING SO WELL.

I ALMOST HAD MYSELF CONVINCED EVERYTHING WAS OKAY.



BUT THEN...

HSS!



...NOW ALL I
FEEL IS ANGER.



AND I AM
ASHAMED
TO SAY...



...IT FEELS
GOOD.



NO...NO...
I'M NOT...THIS
ISN'T ME...THIS
ISN'T...

I TRIED
TO FIGHT THIS
FEELING.



...ME...

BUT THERE
IS NO ME...

YOU OKAY,
FELLA?

...THERE
IS NO
ME...

WOZZAT?

...THERE
IS ONLY...

MRRRMFF!

...US.

DEPENDENCE DAY

ROBBIE THOMPSON WRITER
GERARDO SANDOVAL ARTIST
DONO SÁNCHEZ-ALMARA COLOR ARTIST

VENOM

COVER GALLERY

IN THE CHARACTER'S NEAR 30-YEAR HISTORY, VENOM HAS BEEN FEATURED IN DOZENS OF LIMITED SERIES, EVENT SPECIALS AND EVEN A FEW ONGOING SERIES--INCLUDING THE HUMBLE COMICS MAG YOU'RE HOLDING IN YOUR HANDS *RIGHT NOW!*

IN THAT TIME, THE CHARACTER HAS SQUARED OFF AGAINST SPIDER-MAN AND A HANDFUL OF OTHER HEROES, TRAVELED THROUGH THE GALAXY AS AN AGENT OF THE COSMOS AND, ABOVE ALL, LETHALLY PROTECTED THE INNOCENTS OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE!

SO TAKE A LOOK BACK THROUGH YESTERYEAR, TRUE BELIEVER, AND FEAST YOUR EYES ON THIS COLLECTION OF COVERS ASSEMBLED IN THE HALLOWED HALLS OF THE HOUSE OF IDEAS BY THE MIGHTY MARVEL BULLPEN!

- EDITOR







STRICKLAND MALL,
QUEENS COUNTY,
NEW YORK. YEARS AGO...

FLASHBACK

THE CONFLICTED CREATURE CALLED VENOM HAS GONE THROUGH MANY CHANGES OVER THE YEARS; THIS IS A STORY BEFORE THOSE CHANGES.

ONE SPIDER,
TWO SPIDERS, THREE
SPIDERS--

--FOUR!

SPAK

MALLED!

DAVID MICHELINIE WRITER RON LIM PENCILER
JOHN LIVESAY INKER LEE LOUGHRIDGE COLORIST

YES,
YES, I KNOW IT'S
MORE LIKE FOUR
DOZEN...

...FIVE
DOZEN, 10
DOZEN...

--BUT WHO'S
COUNTING?
BESIDES,
PLAYTIME'S
OVER--



--AND I'M STILL BORED. STAKEOUTS ARE SUCH A BOTHER.

BUT **TEDIUM** IS A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR JUSTICE!



SPIDER-MAN DESTROYED MY CAREER, SPURNED YOU WHEN YOU SOUGHT TO JOIN HIM AS A LIVING COSTUME, A **PARTNER**.

BUT THIS COULD FINALLY BE OUR CHANCE FOR **RETRIBUTION!**



A CRIMINAL GANG HAS BEEN ROBBING SHOPPING CENTERS, BRUTALIZING CIVILIANS.

AN IRRESISTIBLE TEMPTATION FOR THAT SELF-PROCLAIMED "**HERO**" TO SWING IN AND GRAB SOME GLORY!



POLICE HAVE NO IDEA WHERE THE MISCREANTS WILL STRIKE NEXT, BUT AS **EDDIE BROCK**, I WAS A **REPORTER**. AND GOOD REPORTERS SOMETIMES FIND SOURCES IN THE CRIMINAL UNDERWORLD.

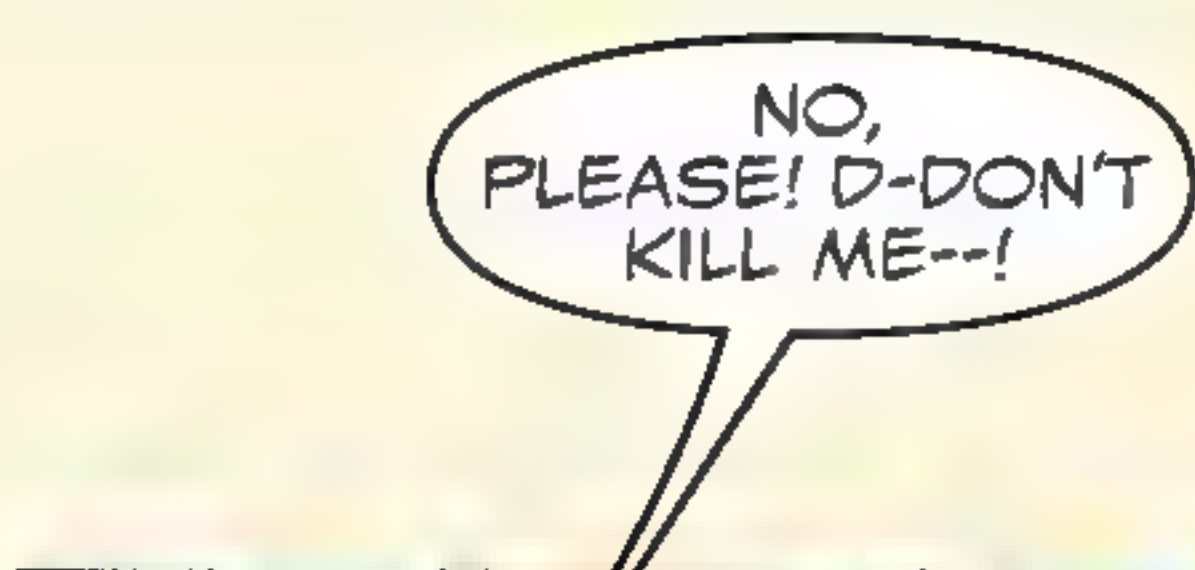
BROCK'S PROVED TO BE MOST COOPERATIVE... WHEN **WE** ASKED THE QUESTIONS!

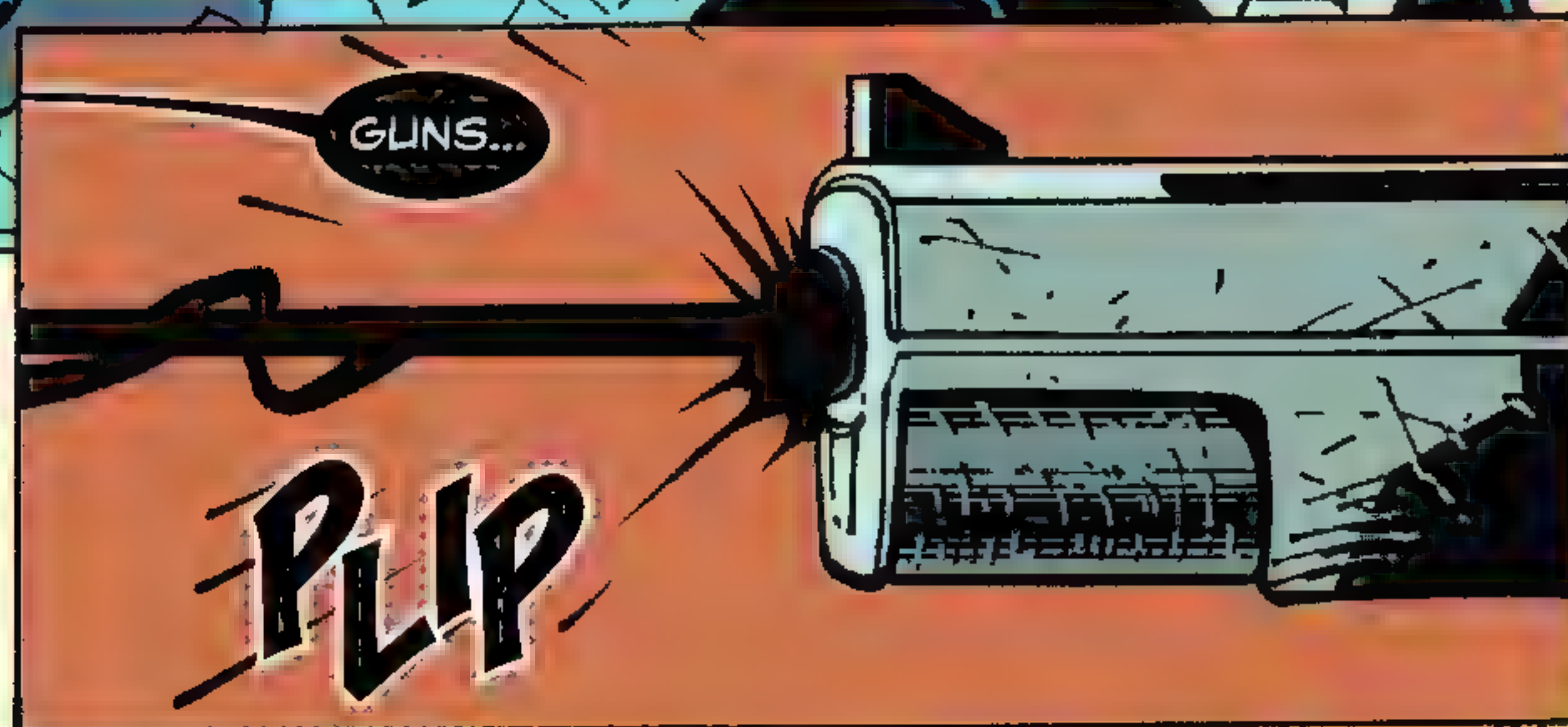


REEEREEEREE

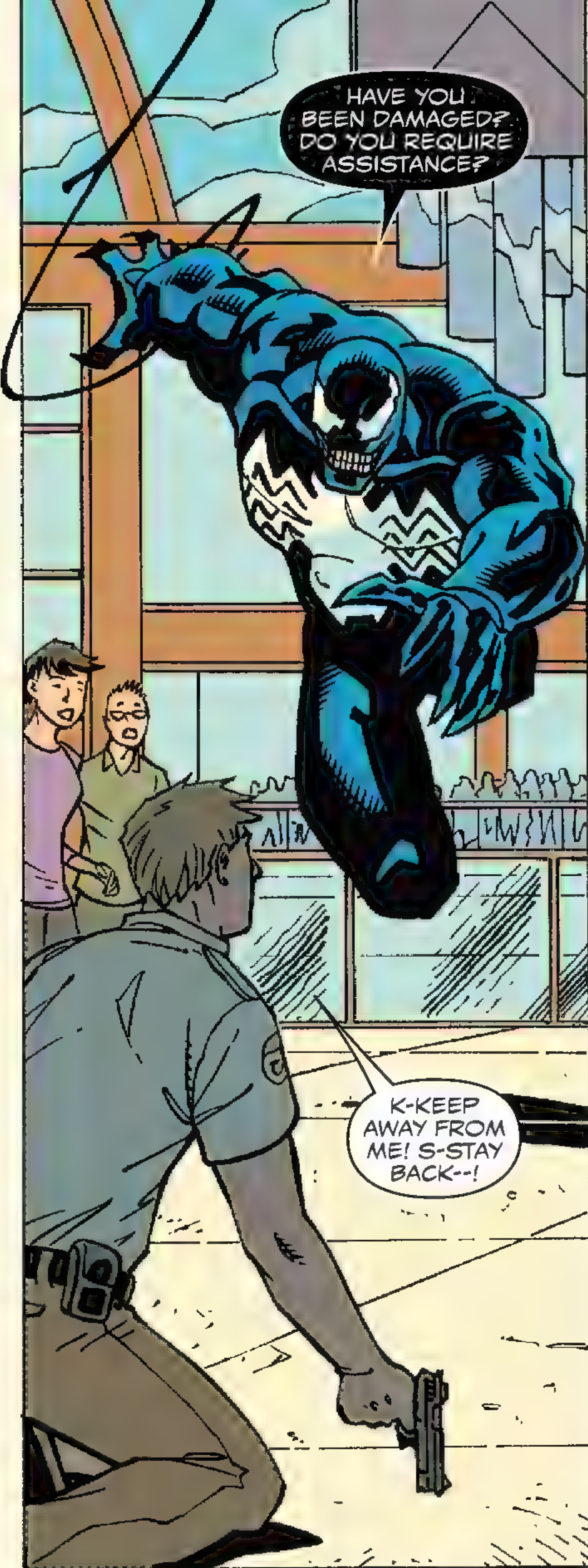
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO HOPE THAT--EHP? AN ALARM?

YESSSS!



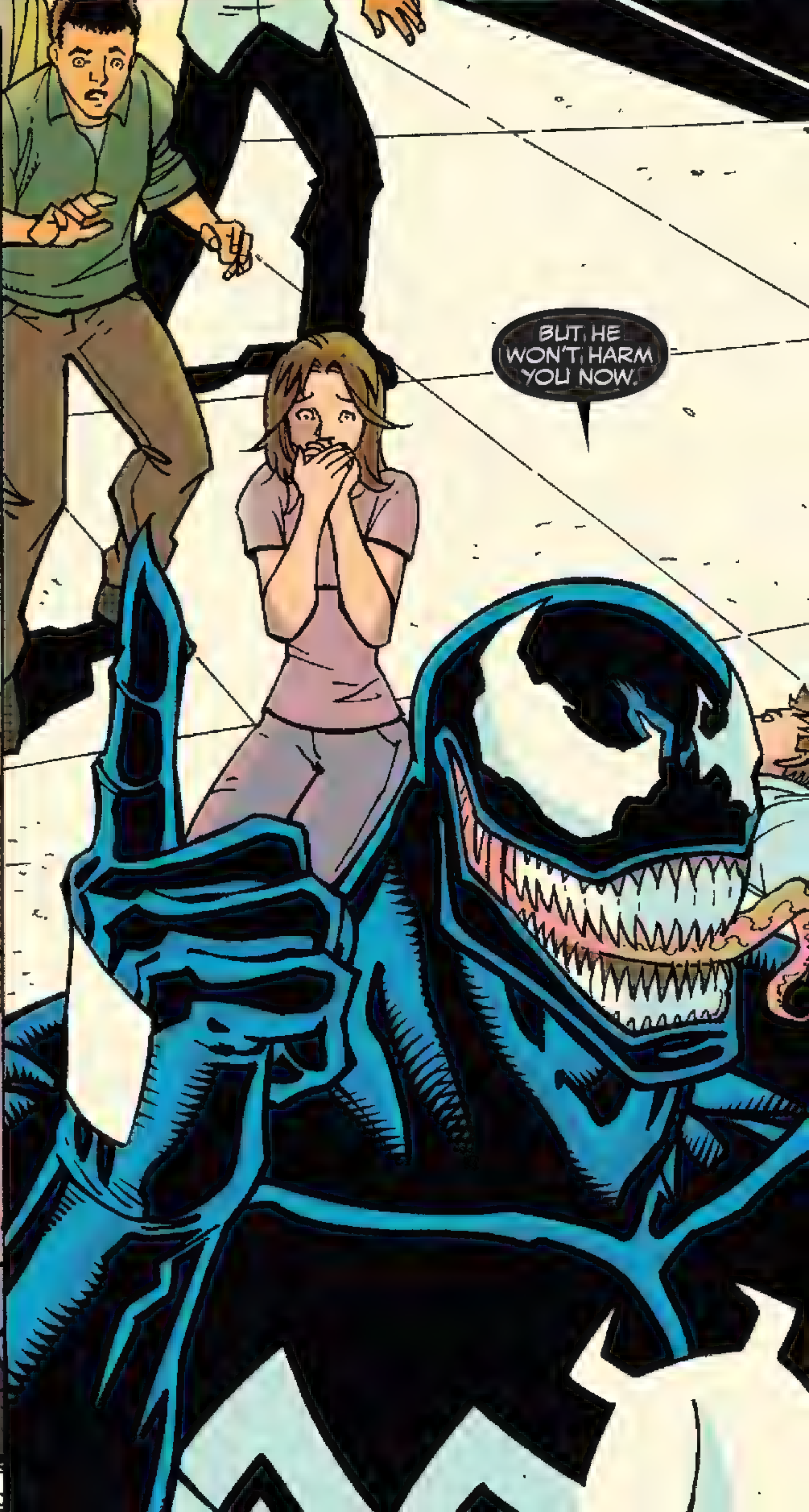
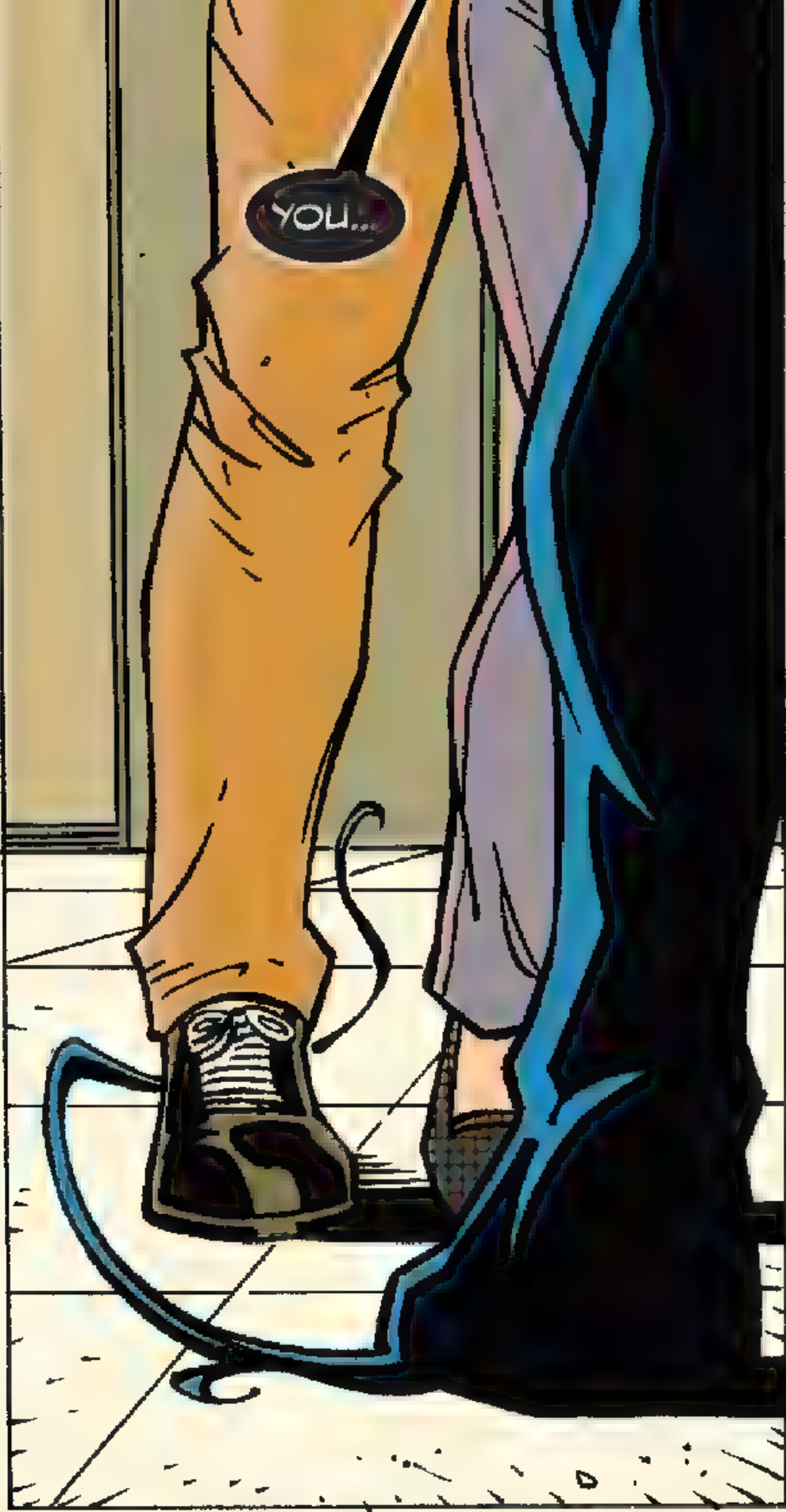






...PUZZLING.





MOMENTS LATER...

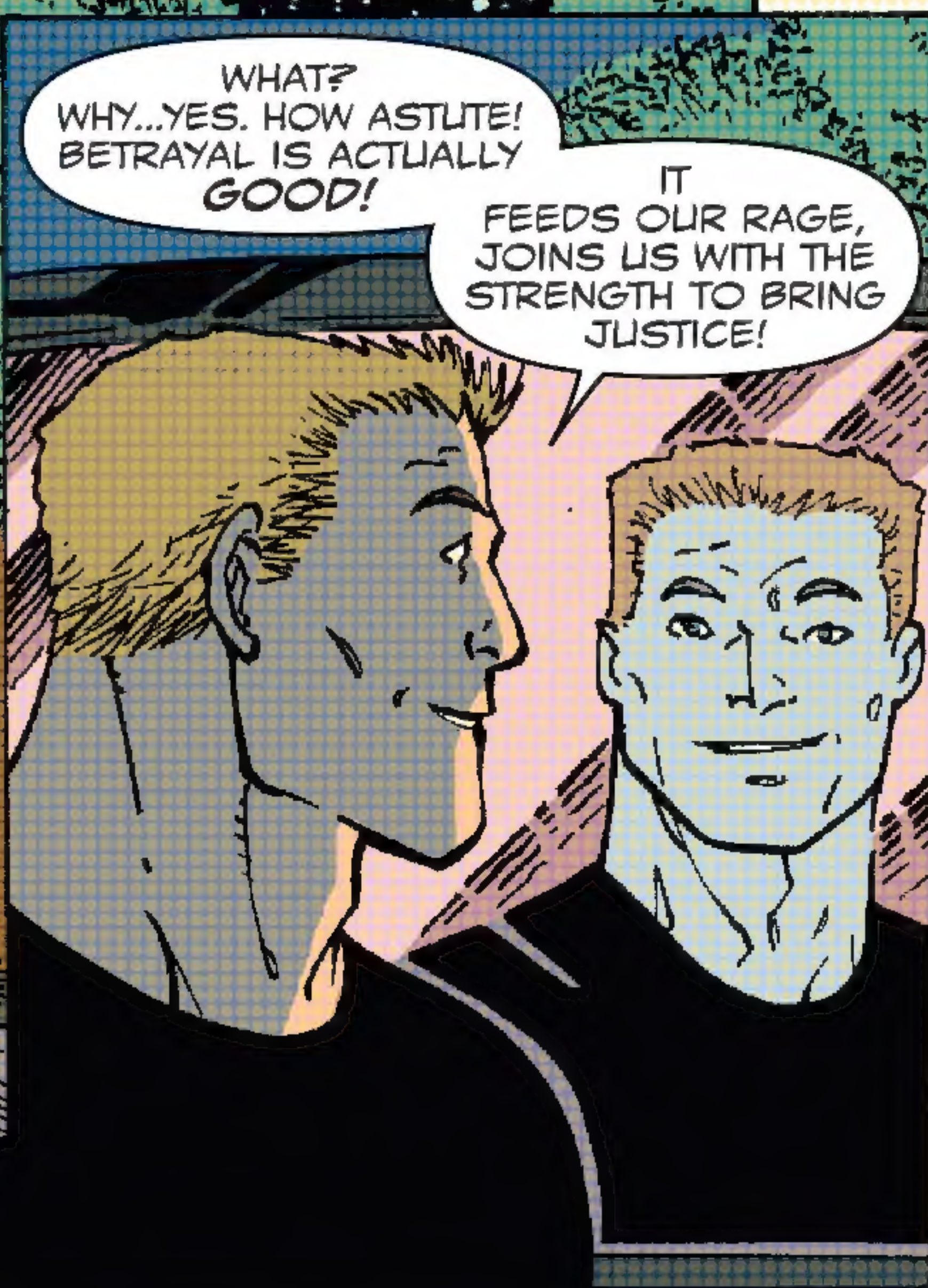
BETRAYAL
HAUNTS US.

FIRST
AT THE HANDS OF
EMPLOYERS TO WHOM
I PLEDGED MY LOYALTY, THEN
BY THAT SELF-RIGHTEOUS
SPIDER-MAN WHO
REJECTED YOU.

AND NOW,
BY THE VERY COWARD
WE SOUGHT TO **PROTECT!**
WILL WE EVER ESCAPE
THE KISS OF
JUDAS...?

WHAT?
WHY...YES. HOW ASTUTE!
BETRAYAL IS ACTUALLY
GOOD!

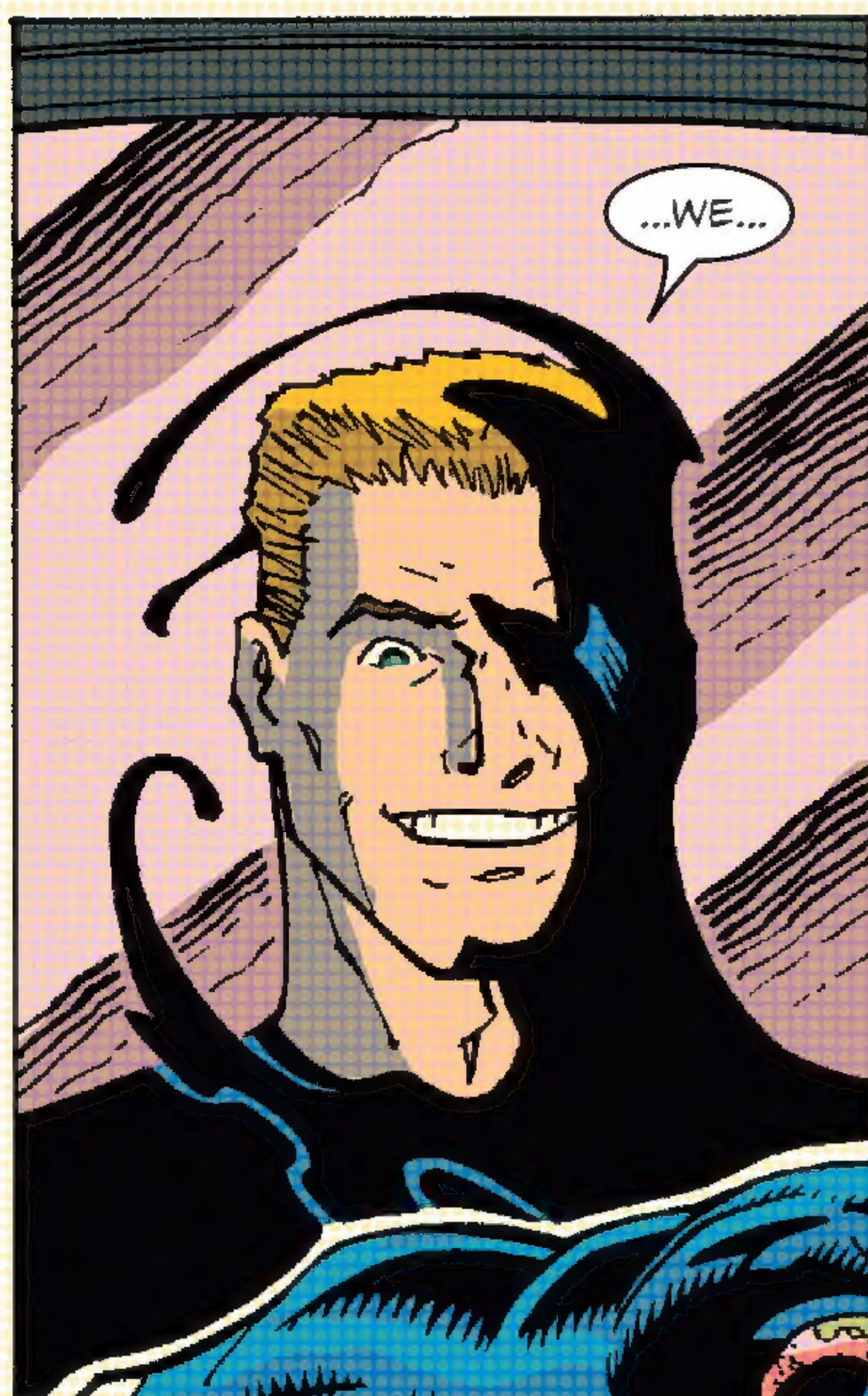
IT
FEEDS OUR RAGE,
JOINS US WITH THE
STRENGTH TO BRING
JUSTICE!



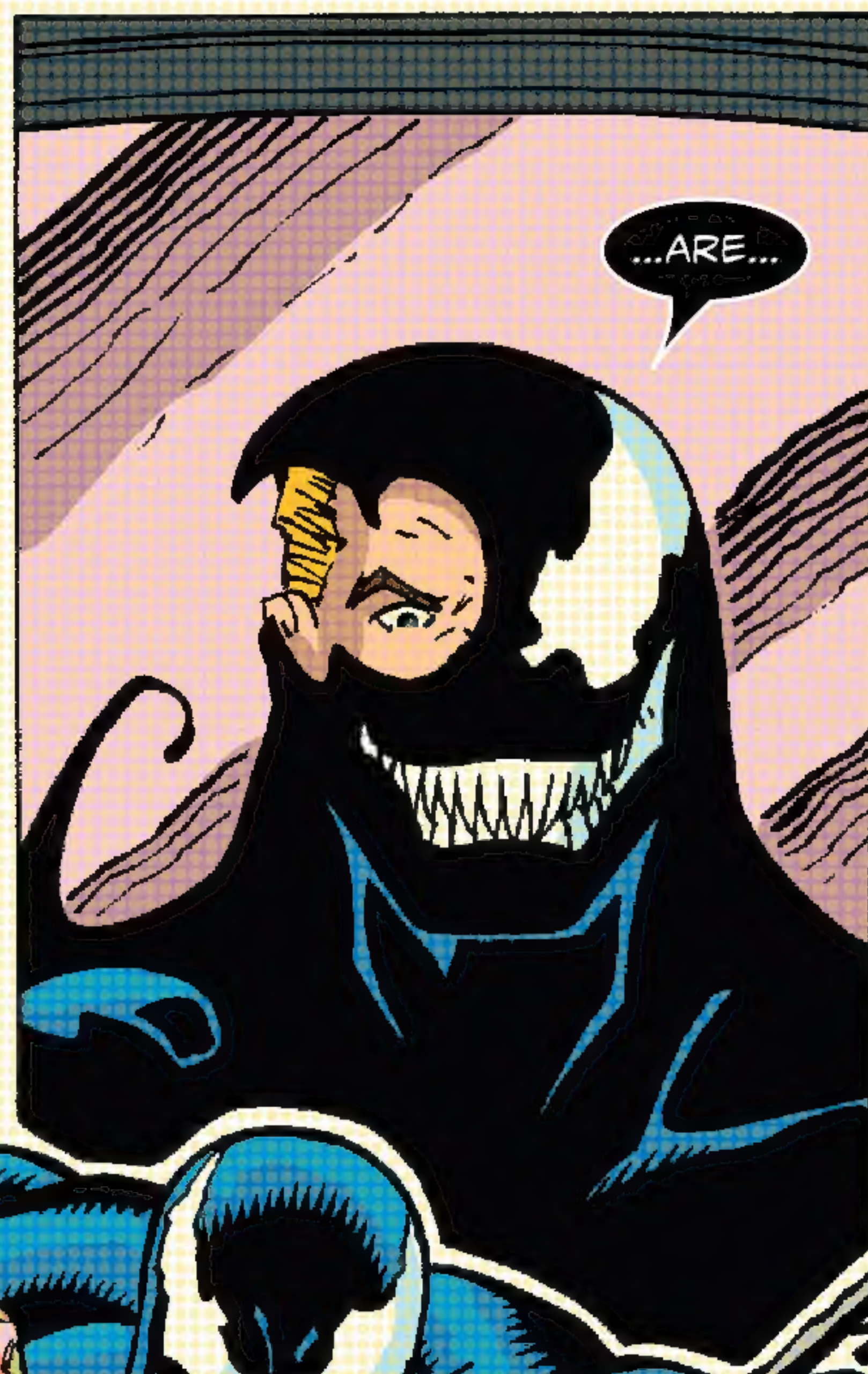
FOR APART,
WE WERE VICTIMS. BUT
TOGETHER...



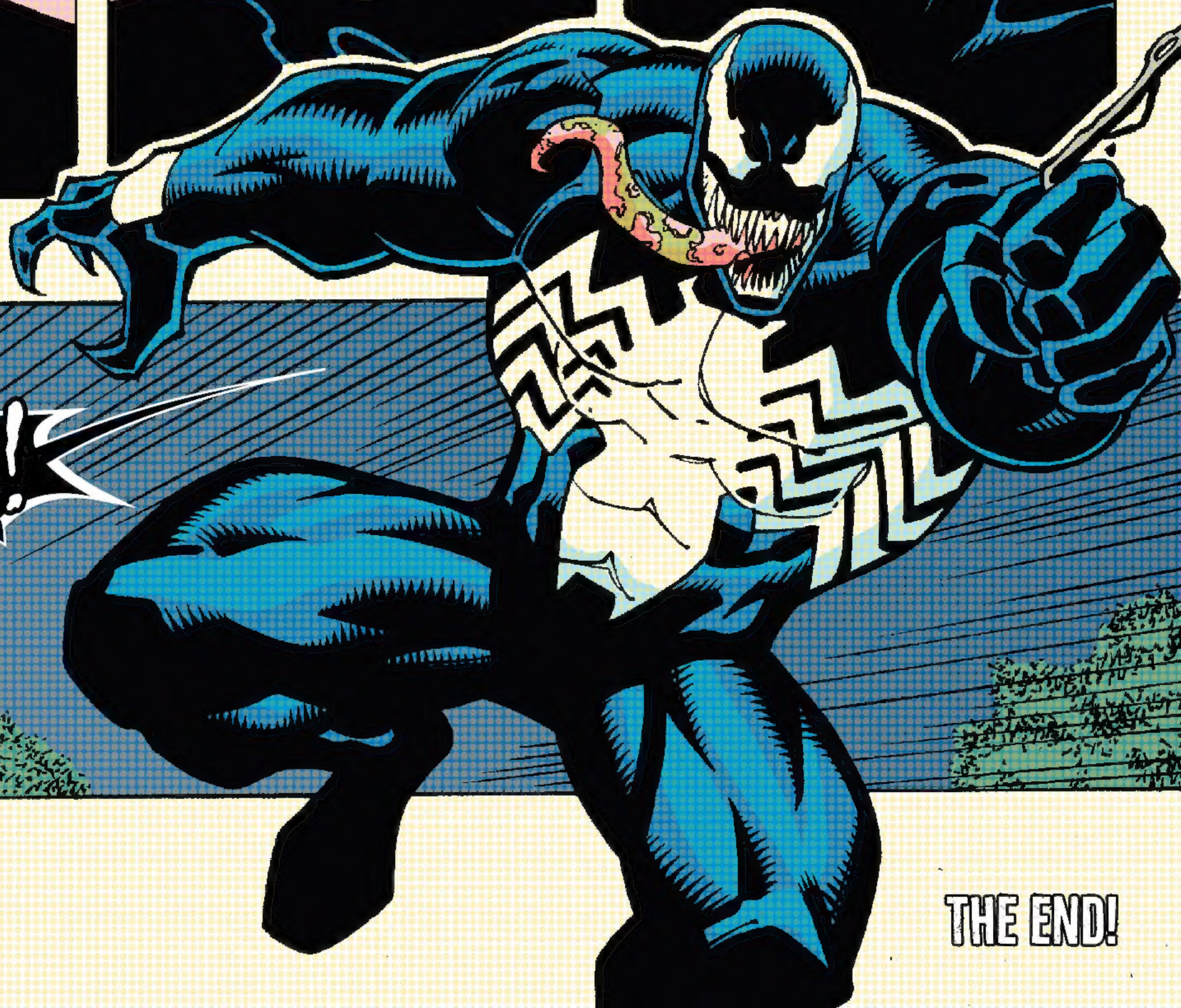
...WE...



...ARE...



VENOM!



THE END!

SYMBIWROTE

ALLISON STOCK
ASSISTANT EDITOR

NICK LOWE
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DEVIN LEWIS
EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

ALAN FINE
EXEC. PRODUCER

BLACK AND WHITE AND RED ALL OVER!

Hello, in here, out there, around the world and aboard all the ships at sea! VENOM editor Devin Lewis reporting to you live and in-print for this, a very special **OVERSIZED 150th** issue featuring your favorite symbiotic web-slinger!

This issue has been in the works for MONTHS! I took over as VENOM editor way back in June of last year, after the terrific Robbie Thompson/Gerardo Sandoval VENOM: SPACE KNIGHT volume (if you haven't read it, GO GET IT!), and one of the first things I did was task Spider-Office intern extraordinaire, Annalise Bissa, to do some digging into the character's history. Annalise's research revealed that within six months, this volume of the VENOM series would bring us to this very special milestone.

I've been a Venom fan for as long as I could read comics, and I wanted this issue to stand apart from the Venom series, specials, and spectaculars that have come before it. Enter our guest artist: Tradd Moore!

I first reached out to Tradd for this project in November of last year, six months prior to the time of this very writing! It took some pleading from your favorite editor, Marvelites, but we got 'im! And, boy, am I so glad that we did! Tradd's work is some of the craziest, most expressive and action-packed work in comics today, and he took Mike's already-fantastic script and ran with it. Ask Allison and Nick--I was GIDDY every time one of Tradd's pages came in. I'd print 'em out and run down the hallowed halls of the Marvel Offices with them like a kid on Christmas morning! CAN YOU BLAME ME?!

But that wasn't all we had up our sleeves for this issue! If there's one question that's plagued my inbox since taking over as VENOM editor, it's what happened to Flash Thompson. Flash has been a part of the Spider-Man tapestry for years, and if you Mighty Marvelites were worried we'd just left him in the dust, WELL NOW YOU KNOW THE TRUTH! It was a real treat to be able to reunite Robbie and Gerardo to complete their story with Flash and Agent Venom. And if you're wondering what's next for Flash, KEEP READING, TRUE BELIEVERS!

Last but not least, what a treat it was to get Venom co-creator David Michelinie on board for another adventure set in the LETHAL PROTECTOR-era with none other than industry legend Ron Lim. Loyal VENOM readers will know that I hate Venom's tongue to a perhaps-unreasonable degree, but SINCE IT WAS ERA-APPROPRIATE, I encouraged Ron to have some fun with it, and I'm glad I did!

But, hey, enough jibber-jabber from

me! Let's see what you folks out in Mighty Marveldom have to say!



Dear SymbiWrote,

When I put issue #6 back into its slipcase, I cracked a grin I've been waiting to crack for thirteen years.

I never would have imagined that the identity of Venom would embark on the twists and turns it has, that one day the concept of the character wouldn't even include Eddie at all. I always figured Mac Gargan would be temporary, and when Flash came along, I was dumbfounded at the start - as I would be when I eventually had to face up to the very real truth that he was as good a Venom as anyone ever was. I LOVED Flash as Venom despite being a fan of Eddie's since I was a kid. Point in fact, by the end of VENOM: SPACE KNIGHT, there wasn't anybody I'd rather have joined with the symbiote, except one guy.

And while parting with Flash is bittersweet (sorry, Lee Price, but I figured you for a stopgap too, from the start), I'm very, very much looking forward to seeing how we'll explore Eddie and the symbiote once more - two personalities who've changed so much since the last time they were together, who must surely need to learn to work with each other again, and how these notions can be reconciled with the hilariously unhinged lunacy that so many of us remember and love Eddie's Venom for.

It's no stretch to say that it's a different Marvel Universe since the last time Eddie was in the black. The comics medium has evolved; a whole new generation of writers with fresh approaches graces Marvel's pages now, and I cannot wait to see what Costa and future writers will do with my favorite screwball symbiote team.

It's been a long wait, at times painful, but I knew it'd happen someday. Thanks so much for finally bringing them together again.

Dave S.
Montreal, Quebec
Venom fan since '89

Couldn't agree with you more, Dave. I was the Spidey-Office intern when Agent Venom made his debut, and I wasn't sure how I'd feel about the character. But, like you, I warmed to Flash as Venom quite quickly, and bittersweet is the only word for his time as Venom coming to a close. But, as you can see from this very issue, Flash's time as Venom may be over, but his story is not. Keep your eyes peeled across your favorite Spidey books over the next few months, and I think you'll be pleasantly surprised. Thanks for reading!

I hope this letter appears in Eddie's Clubhouse! Are we doing Eddie's Clubhouse again? Well either way, I hope this reaches the dudes making the Venom series. It kicks butt. That poor symbiote can't catch a break, the second it's all heroic, some sociopath comes along and makes it do bad stuff. When it was announced online that Eddie

Brock was returning to his position as the host of Venom, I symbiote screeched. Well, I screamed like a little girl actually, but...point is, I am excited.

Cheers on the big #150, can't wait to read it!

A symbiote fan named Jesse

Thanks, Jesse! We're still SymbiWrote for now, but maybe Eddie's Clubhouse will make a return at some point in the future... Hope this issue lived up to your expectations! You won't believe what's coming!

Hey there, beautiful people! I've got a question that's been eating at my brain for a bit now. Is Anti-Venom an actual symbiote? We need to know! For science. Thanks for all the awesome reading and I'm really looking forward to "VENOMVERSE!"

Big V.

This is another question that's popped up a lot, and since we got to see Tradd's rendition of Anti-Venom in pages 2-3 of this story, I figured now was as good a time as any to answer it! **TECHNICALLY speaking, Anti-Venom was not a sentient symbiote, like Venom. It was, in fact, reanimated traces of symbiotic material left within Eddie Brock's body that were mutated after being exposed to Mister Negative's unique abilities.**

Hey, since you mentioned it--what's VENOMVERSE? First I'm hearing of it...

Dear Team Venom,

I've been a Venomaniac for nearly two decades. I was first exposed to Venom and the symbiotes, like many from my generation, through *Spider-Man: The Animated Series*. Though I missed out on regularly collecting any Eddie Brock/Venom series as they were published, I became a regular Venom subscriber at the very start of Flash Thompson's run as Agent Venom.

I've liked every Venom host, from the original, Eddie, to poor Angelo Fortunato and Flash--I even like Mac Gargan! If anyone is familiar with The Venom Site's podcast, *We Are Venomaniacs!*, of which I am a host, they know I and my co-hosts have had little love for Venom's most recent host, Lee Price. So, when Marvel announced that Eddie would be returning as the host of Venom, I was immensely relieved and only slightly melancholic.

Eddie is my favorite fictional character of all time. That's no secret--I wear it as a badge of geek honor. I've loved his oft-misunderstood character progression from the host of Venom to cancer patient, and to becoming and losing Anti-Venom. He's had some great character growth that most people miss when they look at him. When he became the new Toxin host, I was a little disheartened by the regression in that progress; he was devolving back to his Lethal Protector ways. I loved his Lethal Protector days and firmly believe they were some of his best as Venom, but the way

he acted as Toxin felt like backpedaling in characterization.

I also believe that Eddie was at his prime in characterization as Anti-Venom. He was finally working toward a better future for himself. He was slowly becoming the hero he always imagined himself to be as Venom. While he regressed a bit on that forward progression as Toxin, he had a breakthrough recently under Gerry Conway's hand in CARNAGE #15 that gave me a glimmer of hope. (Props to Conway and co. for a great run on Carnage!) While I still lament that Eddie isn't going to be Anti-Venom again, I hope that as Venom once more, we'll see him in a better state than he was when he was Venom 13 years ago and during his Lethal Protector days. I hope Mike Costa and co. bring Eddie-Venom back as a "Lethal Protector PLUS." (Wherever Costa and co. go with him, I'll just be glad we no longer have Lee in control of the symbiote!)

Sincerely,
Orion P.
A Lifelong Venomian

Hi, Orion, and thanks for your letter! I've listened to a few episodes of your podcast, and it's great stuff! We here at Marvel love it when fans are passionate about these characters. So thank you for spreading the symbiotic word!

I wear my love of Eddie Brock as a badge of honor, as well, and I can only hope that this issue has done you proud!

Dear Venom Dudes,
Holy crap!
Issue #6 was amazing! Eddie Brock back as Venom?! About time! Don't get me wrong, I loved Flash Thompson as Venom, but there's just something about Eddie Brock being Venom that just feels right.

I really hope this is not just for a couple of issues and then Lee gets the symbiote back. It was an incredibly interesting dynamic where the symbiote wanted to be good and its host did not, but I just don't care for Lee that much. He's dark, he's troubled, yeah yeah. I will say this, though, his Venom/Misfits costume was pretty legit.

Thank you for bringing back Eddie Brock! I am really looking forward to #150!

Sincerely,
Matt W.



Dear SymbiWrote,
Just picked up the first three new issues of VENOM and was not disappointed. Venom has long been one of my all-time favorite characters and the Agent Venom/Flash Thompson run really revamped the character. Of course, I'll always love Eddie Brock as the Lethal Protector and Spidey's reluctant partner but this new run is definitely giving us a different look at Venom.

Usually the story focuses on the host as Venom leaving the Symbiote itself as an afterthought or influence, but for a change we're hearing a lot of Venom's inner thoughts and views. I like where this is going, the inner struggle of the symbiote

trying to do good is an interesting take. The art is beautiful and really sets the mood. Hope to see some tie-in with Eddie Brock the man himself, as I recall he is now Toxin.

Please?

Mauricio S.

Thanks for writing, Mauricio! You're exactly right that we're hearing more of the symbiote's voice now than we ever have before. That was all Mike Costa's idea--he had a very specific vision for the symbiote's expression in this series, and he wanted to give it a chance to express itself in a way that it never had before. It sounds like he pulled it off, if you've enjoyed those first three issues as much as you seem to, and I hope this one didn't leave you disappointed!

Dear SYMBIWROTE,
I've been reading Venom's adventures regularly since ASM #374, and reading the current series has me thinking about the future of our favorite symbiote!! First and foremost, Angelo's story is compelling but I hope that his time as Venom is short-lived. He is unfortunately one of my least favorite Venom regulars. I think that we have enough people that have had the suit to go around for a while. In fact, why take the suit from Flash? So many people agree that he was perfect for it; possibly THE most perfect for it.

Quick side note, it's interesting that every person who has had the Venom costume starts out a villain (except Spidey, of course) and becomes a hero. Mac, of course, was one of the most brutal, and I think that he is the standard for the murderous side of Venom, and even he did SOME heroic stuff during DARK REIGN. Brock and Flash especially both hated Spidey, but when it came down to it, they both proved to be two of the biggest heroes in the Marvel Universe (yes, I said it about Brock--*Spider-Island* for example). I guess that this is all because they both always wanted to be heroes and had twisted moments along the way. My FAVORITE Brock moment is when he exposed Mister Negative. It felt like he had such a sense of fulfillment and that his life was coming around full circle--as getting a similar story wrong is what led him down the dark path in the first place.

Brock as Anti-Venom was, to me, his perfect evolution. I guess things change, but so far he seems to be devolving instead of evolving for the most part (Brock's truce with Flash and also the CARNAGE series were step in the right direction though--finally).

I'll keep reading but I hope that things work out in a cool way for Venom. With the suit actually experiencing being an intergalactic hero with Flash, and Brock being an antihero, I can only imagine how things would be if Brock gets his original suit back.

Whatever the case, I'll keep reading.
Keep protecting the innocents.

Joel G.

Thanks for reading and for being such

a loyal Spider-Fan, Joel! There's nothing better for the Spider-Team than hearing from longtime readers like you. Gerry Conway did some terrific work with Eddie, and you have this editor's word that we're going to be loyal to his character development in that series!

Looks like we've got room for exactly one more letter, Venomaniacs! So, let's hear from a new reader!

Dear Venom Team,
I have never read a Venom or Spider-Man book before so I honestly didn't know what to expect going in, but I have to say that I have fallen in love with this series. The storytelling has engulfed me in a way comics haven't in a long time and I honestly am surprised at every turn! The art is stellar, it really adds a whole new dimension to the book. Great job to everyone involved in crafting such a fun story and I cant wait to see where it goes.

Tyler B. Prescott, AZ

NEVER READ A VENOM OR SPIDER-MAN BOOK BEFORE?! Oh, MAN, Tyler! HOW HAVE YOU LIVED?! Let me be the first to welcome you to the insane and beautiful world of Spidey comics. Hope you survive the experience...that's an X-Men reference, but it still applies!

That seems like as good a note as any to end on! Be sure to let us know how we're doing at SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM and be back here IN ONE MONTH for VENOM #151, featuring the return of Gerardo Sandoval on interior art duties and Eddie Brock squaring off against his first big-time Marvel Universe baddie... STEGRON THE DINOSAUR MAN! It will be... A LAND BEFORE CRIME! Don't miss it!



